

VILLA ROTUNDA, VICENZA.

## THE VILLA PALLADIANA, VICENZA.

By FREDK. R. HIORNS [A.], *Godwin Bursar*, 1905.

**A**T the southern end of the Venetian plain—that portion which stretches eastward from the Veronese Alps to the Lagoons—are two hills, or, rather, clumps of hills, which break the otherwise general flatness of the low-lying land. These are the Monti Berici, rising some fourteen hundred feet, and the Colli Euganei, which reaches to nearly two thousand—both of volcanic origin, and surrounded, for long ages, with fertile and beautiful country. The Euganean hills occur some miles south-west of Padua, and are a prominent feature in the landscape as seen from Venice; the Berician mount is immediately south of, and adjacent to, Vicenza, and on its lower eastern slope is the Villa Almerico, Capra, or Rotunda, the masterpiece, as regards domestic works, of Palladio.

It was a hard decree of fate that caused in 1917\* the retirement of the Italian Army to the Piave line; so that Venetia, rich in all that one associates with beauty, was again overrun by the long-time enemies of its native races, and that portion of its territory not actually subjected to invasion placed in peril such as those who care for what it typifies in art and beauty could only contemplate with pain. The nearest point of the Piave is little more than thirty miles from Vicenza, while the Asiago plateau (north of Monte Melago), where some very hard fighting took place, is, perhaps, little more than twenty miles to the north of that city. In defence against invasion through the Venetian plain the two hills of Berici and Euganei are of considerable strategic importance—just as the surrounding country has from the remotest ages been the scene of deadly battles and ruthless destruction. It is doubtless on this account that there occurs, to the west, the famous quadrilateral of fortresses, Verona, Mantua, Legnago, and Peschiera, supplementing the natural defences and

\* When this note was written Vicenza and other cities of North-east Italy were in great danger. A recently published statement shows that 10,000 square kilometres of territory—almost wholly in Venetia—suffered practical destruction at the hands of the Austrians, and that more

than 75,000 dwelling-houses were seriously damaged, a quarter of this number being razed to the ground. In addition to this, 87 churches were reduced to ruins and a further 158 damaged.

guarding a position of vital importance to the safety of Italy from its northern approaches. War—impelled, except in so far as it is defensive, by instincts of primitive savagery—is always cruel and destructive to man and his works, and none has been more so than that recently pursued in the sacred name of *Kultur*.

Andrea Palladio was born at Vicenza in 1518, and, in the ten years which followed the year 1541, he spent a considerable portion of his time in Rome, and other places, studying the remains of ancient architecture, records of which were subsequently published in his books. At this period he had already acquired repute as an architect, and by 1550 had completed what is, in some respects, his most notable work—the addition of the two-storeyed arcade which encloses and masks the mediæval Palazzo della Ragione, or Basilica Palladiana, as now called, of his native city. Vicenza is full of his palaces and the countryside of his villas, or those of his followers, but of the latter none is more famous than that which he designed for Paolo Almerico, the ecclesiastic, and which is so beautifully placed upon Monte Berico. This sumptuous example of the relatively small country house is of the nature of a landmark to all Vicentine visitors for whom fine architecture is of interest, and has been so since its construction. It is reached by an easy walk of less than a mile from the city. Near by are the Villa Valmarana, with Tiepolo frescoes, and the Servite Church of S. Maria del Monte, with its remarkable arcaded approach, climbing the hill, and Montagna's splendid picture of the Madonna and Saints bewailing the dead Christ. Glorious views are obtained from the ridges of the mount—of the Alps beyond Bassano, together with that town, Schio, and Treviso; the course of the Brenta, the Euganean hills, Padua, and even of the Venetian lagoons away to the extreme east. The valleys formed by the Berician and Euganean hills have been in repute for their waters and health-giving qualities since early Roman times, and the soil still retains that remarkable fertility which Martial praised. It is not surprising, then, that such a site should offer attractions for a rural pleasure house, added to the advantages it possessed in proximity to the associations of a cultured and remarkable city.

The Villa Almerico was clearly one of Palladio's later works, though not so much so but that the design appears in the 1570 Venetian edition of his books. The description which he gives of it is as follows \* :—

Amongst many honourable Vicentine gentlemen there is Monsignor Paolo Almerico, an ecclesiastick who was referendary to two supreme Popes, Pio the fourth and fifth, and who for his merit deserved to be made a Roman citizen with all his family. This gentleman, after having travelled many years out of a desire of honour, all his relations being dead, came to his native country and for his recreation retired to one of his country houses upon a hill, . . . where he has built according to the following invention . . . . The site is as pleasant and as delightful as can be found because it is upon a small hill of very easy access and is watered on one side by the Bacchiglione, a navigable river, and on the other encompassed with most pleasant risings which look like a very great theatre and are all cultivated and abound with most excellent fruits and most exquisite vines; and therefore as it enjoys from every part most beautiful views, some of which are limited, some more extended, and others that terminate with the horizon, there are loggias made in all the four fronts under the floor of which and of the hall are the rooms for the conveniency and use of the family. The hall is in the middle, is round, and receives its light from above. The small rooms are divided off. Over the great rooms there is a place to walk round the hall. . . . In the extremity of the pedestals that form a support to the stairs of the loggias there are statues made by the hands of Messer Lorenzo Vicentino, a very excellent sculptor.

The name of its original owner, Almerico, was not long associated with the building, for it appears to have passed very soon into the possession of the Capra family. This will explain why the villa is so generally designated Capra and not Almerico.

Vincenzo Scamozzi † (1552-1616) completed several of the works of Palladio, including the Teatro Olimpico‡ at Vicenza and the Church of San Giorgio at Venice, and according to his namesake,

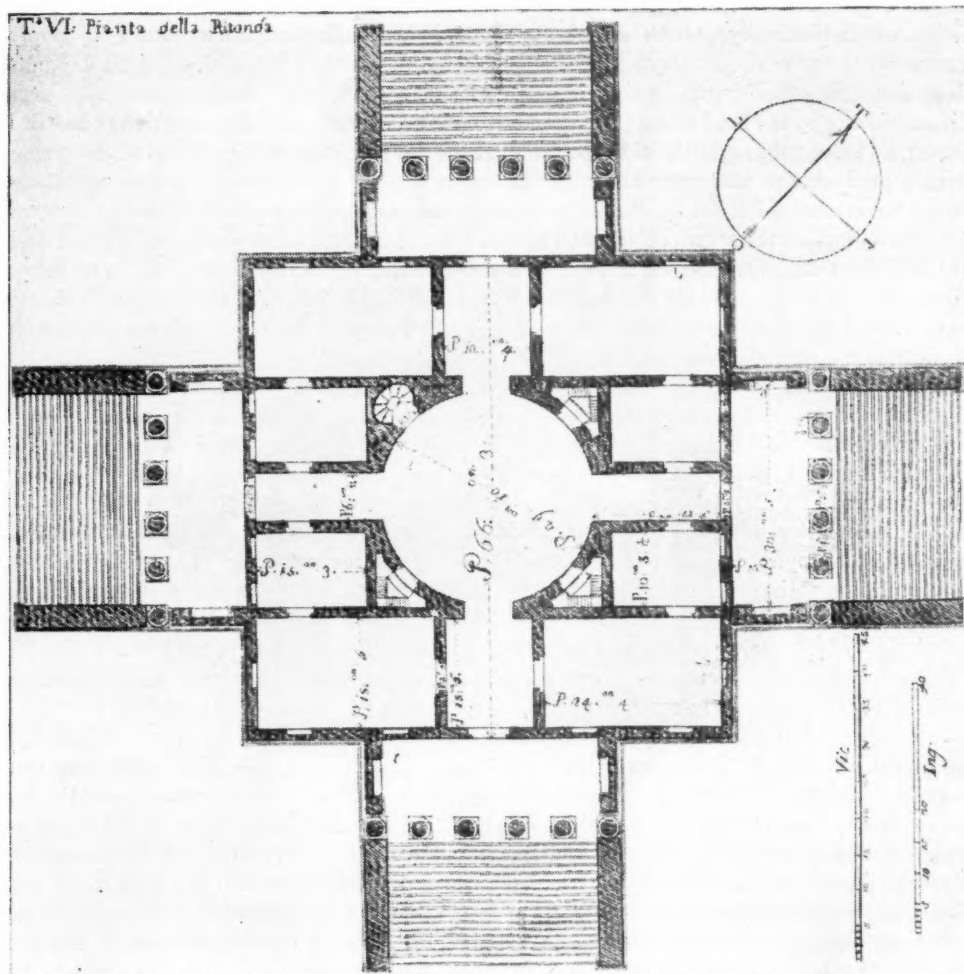
\* Second book. Ware's translation, 1738.

† Like Palladio, a native of Vicenza, and chiefly famous for his extension of Sansovino's Library, Venice, into the Square of S. Mark.

‡ The Olympic Academy of Vicenza was founded in the year 1555 for the encouragement of polite literature. Its members revived the acting of Greek plays and, finding the existing buildings unsuitable, commissioned Palladio

to construct a theatre on the classical model, which he did so that "the spirit of ancient genius seemed to revive and the spectator might have imagined himself at Athens." The Latin inscription over the stage states that "to Virtue and Genius the Academy of the Olympics in the year 1584 raised from its foundation this theatre, of which Palladio was the architect."

Ottavio Bertotti Scamozzi, it seems that the Villa Rotonda was acquired by the Capra family before its completion and finished by Vincenzo, at their instruction, after Palladio's death in 1580. In that case it appears likely that the roofing-over of the central domed hall is due to him, the treatment being quite different from that proposed by Palladio, as shown by the woodcut illustration in his book.\*



The connection of the Capra family with the Villa is commemorated in an inscription on the portico pediments, which, pieced together, reads :—

Marcus Capra Gabrielis filius  
 Qui ædes has  
 Artissimo primogenituræ gradui subjecit  
 Una cum omnibus  
 Censibus agris vallibus et collibus  
 Citra viam magnam  
 Memoræ perpetuæ mandans hæc  
 Dum sustinet ac abstinet.

\* Palladio designed a house for Giulio Capra to be built on a "most beautiful site, in the principal street of the city" (Vicenza). It is illustrated in plate 14 of Palladio's second book.

James Dallaway,\* the eighteenth century English antiquary, who visited the building in 1796, was shown over it by the then Marquis, who claimed that it was originally built as a summer residence for four brothers of his family, who each had his own distinct suite of apartments. This is not in agreement with other records, including that of Palladio himself, but it supports, anyway, the early connection of the Capra family with the Villa, while the inscription emphasises the care taken to ensure the succession, within the family, of both the house and lands. Vincenzio Scamozzi left, it is said, property to be awarded to one of his countrymen who should be adjudged the best architect of his day, under the obligation, however, of assuming his name. Ottavio Bertotti, born in 1726, was eventually selected for this inheritance by the head of the Capra family† of that time, and, having assumed the name of his benefactor, he brought him additional honour, and, at the same time, worthily celebrated his own good fortune, by producing an extremely fine book illustrative of Palladio's works,‡ together with the less ambitious but charming handbook, *Il Forestiere istrutto nelle cose più rare di architettura . . . della città di Vicenza*, from which the engraved plan and section here reproduced are taken. The original edition of 1761 is dedicated to the Marquis Mario Capra and contains his engraved portrait. The house is described as "La Rotonda, o sia Palazzo suburbano delli Nobb. Sigg. Marchesi Capra." Another engraved view of about the same period states it to be a "Prospetto della Rotonda dei Nobb. S. Sig. March. Marzio e Gabriele Fratelli Capra."

The main body of the building forms a square of about seventy-five feet side, from which project the porticos, following Palladio's own principle || of emphasising the position of the entrance—in this case one on each face and presumably all equally important—by a columniated doorway or portico. Each portico is approached by a flight of steps of its full width, which enlarges the enclosing square to over one hundred and fifty feet across, the rise of the steps embracing the height of the basement storey. In the latter are placed the domestic offices, an arrangement more advantageous and convenient to the proprietor than to his servants. The porticos are roughly forty feet by sixteen feet on plan, with columns of the Ionic order—the favourite of Palladio and usually treated with much elegance—twenty-one feet in height. The larger rooms on the main floor scale twenty-eight feet by eighteen feet, the height of this storey being about twenty-three feet. The circular central hall is rather more than thirty-two feet in diameter and is covered internally by a dome—hemispherical in accordance with his invariable practice—the crown of which is roughly fifty-five feet above the floor. A projecting gallery around this hall gives access to the upper floor rooms. Staircases fill the spandrels in the plan formed by the junction of the circular hall with the square walls of the main block, and, being of the "makeshift" variety, add nothing to the effect of the interior. The external treatment of the dome differs, as already mentioned, from Palladio's proposal, and its effect, as executed under Scamozzi's direction, is probably better than the original design would have produced. Its apex is over seventy-five feet from the ground—no mean height for a country villa. In conjunction with the main roof it forms an original and pleasing termination to the general mass of the building—the projecting porticos, with their roofs stopped in the depth of the attic stage, grouping with the rest quite happily. In fact, it is one of the notable qualities of Palladio's designs that prominence is given to the roofing of his buildings, so that it becomes an important factor in the massing of his compositions. Reference to the many designs illustrated in his book will show that this is so. This building, moreover, emphasises the decorative value—if one may put it so—of large plain spaces, a quality often neglected in architectural compositions, and particularly in fenestration. The general simplicity of treatment produces that dignity of effect which caused Fergusson to describe it as "perhaps the most classical

\* See *Anecdotes of the Arts in England*, by James Dallaway, M.B., F.S.A., 1800.

† The Marquises Capra were executors of Vincenzio Scamozzi's will.

‡ *Le Fabbriche e Disegni di Andrea Palladio*. 4 Vols. Folio. Vicenza, 1776.

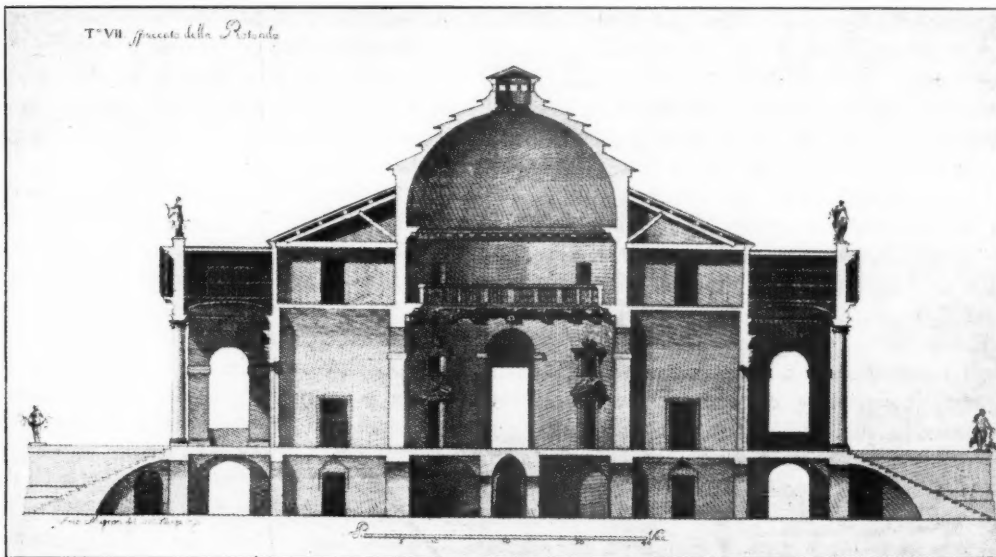
|| "In all the houses which I have built in the country,

and also in some of those which I have made in towns, I have always placed a pediment where the chief entrance is, because it makes the principal entry to the house more conspicuous, and contributes very much to the magnificence and grandeur of the building."—Palladio's second book.

and temple-like design ever applied to domestic architecture." The situation of the building, "at the point of a hill advancing from the general line," entirely justifies the plan, and the portico treatment affords the pleasantest opportunities for catching views from all four points of the compass while, at the same time, protecting the interior from the hot rays of the summer sun. As has been well said,\*

No other position could have suited the house so well, and no other house, either larger or smaller, or with any other arrangement, would have been so well adapted to the situation. Internally it is equally admirable . . . the rooms form altogether one suite of apartments, four of which are intended for bedrooms; but this, in the system of Italian manners, would be no objection to their being thrown open to receive company, and here, whatever may be the time of day, you are sure of shade, air, and beautiful scenery.

A man would want little more for the enjoyment of life than what this house, with its delightful garden and surroundings, affords. Its plan has had many imitators and, assuming the possible omission of



superfluous porticos—which other sites or circumstances might not justify—and the placing of a worthy staircase in the space occupied by one of the vestibules, it offers suggestions for present-day application. The problem apparently interested Lord Burlington, among others; his villa at Chiswick is said to have been inspired by it, though the adaptation appears not to have met with complete success if Lord Chesterfield's ironic verse is in any way truthful:

Possessed of one great house of state,  
Without one room to sleep or eat,  
How well you build let flatt'ry tell  
And all mankind how ill you dwell.

The fame of Palladio's Rotunda was so great that it attracted many interested visitors. Goethe was there in 1786, as related in his *Memoirs*, and he gives it as his opinion that "probably the luxury of architecture was never carried to so high a point. The space occupied by the steps and vestibules is much larger than that occupied by the house itself; for every one of the sides is as

\* Woods, *Letters of an Architect*, 1828.

grand and pleasing as the front of a temple. . . . The variety which is produced by the principal mass, as, together with the projecting columns, it is gradually brought before the eyes of the spectator who walks round it, is very great; and the purpose of the owner, who wished to leave a large trust estate, and at the same time a visible monument of his wealth, is completely achieved. You may see the Bacchiglione flowing along, and taking vessels down from Verona\* to the Brenta, while you overlook the extensive possessions which the Marquis Capra wished to preserve undivided in his family." Goethe had an almost idolatrous admiration for Palladio, whom he speaks of as "a man really and intrinsically great, whose greatness was outwardly manifested," and goes on to say that "there is indeed something divine about his designs, which may be exactly compared to the creations of the great poet who, out of truth and falsehood, elaborates something between both, and charms us with its borrowed existence." And at another time, visiting a sculpture collection in Venice, he says: "Palladio has opened the road for me to this and every other art and life." While in Vicenza he called upon "the old architect Scamozzi,† who has published an edition of Palladio's buildings, and is a diligent artist, passionately devoted to his art." Nor is it strange that so great a hero-worshiper searched for a copy of Palladio's book and found it at Padua, "not indeed," he says, "the original edition which I saw at Vicenza, where the cuts are in wood, but a facsimile in copper, published at the expense of an excellent man named Smith, who was formerly the English Consul at Venice. We must give the English this credit, that they have long known how to prize what is good, and have a magnificent way of diffusing it."‡

If excellence in architecture consists in expressing beautifully and correctly the purpose of a building, then nothing could indicate more suitably than this Villa at Vicenza the courtly and picturesque dignity and elegance associated with the life of a cultured Italian gentleman in the sixteenth century. The correct expression of ideas is a primary difficulty of the architectural designer, and it was a great quality in Palladio that he invariably surmounted it successfully. The understanding of Roman buildings acquired in his early studies caused him to apply, with facility and ease, the principles they embodied to modern requirements. This he did very judiciously, and with great variety and originality of treatment, so that his system became the model that, more perhaps than any other, influenced the course of Renaissance Architecture in Europe. It was certainly so as regards England, where Inigo Jones introduced the new manner as an avowed disciple of Palladio, and where the latter's books have been the recognised training manual for students. As Milizia puts it, "the most cultivated nations of Europe study his books, and the English justly consider him the Newton of architecture." This resulted from a general acceptance of both Palladio's teaching and practice as being sound and reasonable, and from recognition of the fact that § "he had at his disposal all the means, all the combinations which the elementary parts of architecture could furnish, and the art of moulding them to his use without exceeding the just medium which Art permits." He was undoubtedly prolific in ideas, and skilful and ingenious in his adaptations of classic precedents to the requirements of his day. So that, though a tendency to academic pedantry may have proved a drag on his imagination,|| Palladio yet retained, and revealed in his work, a considerable measure of originality; and one is continually charmed by the variety and freshness of his buildings. As that excellent scholar Joseph Forsyth has finely said,\*\* "their beauty originates in the design, and is never superinduced by ornament. Their elevations enchant you, not by length and altitude, nor by the materials and sculpture, but by the consummate felicity of their proportions, by the harmonious distribution

\* There is surely some mistake here. Perhaps Vicenza is meant, not Verona.

† Evidently Ottavio Bertotti Scamozzi, already referred to.

‡ A graceful compliment which, from such a source, reads somewhat amusingly now. Later, when at Venice Goethe visited the Lido and the English burial place there, where, he says, "I found the tomb of Smith, the

noble English Consul, and of his first wife. It is to him that I owe my first copy of Palladio; I thanked him for it here in his unconsecrated grave."

§ Wyatt Papworth.

|| See "Andrea Palladio," in Sir Reginald Blomfield's delightful *Studies in Architecture*.

\*\* *Remarks on Antiquities, Arts, and Letters in Italy*, in the years 1802 and 1803.

of solid and void, by that happy something between flat and prominent which charms both in front and profile; by that *maëstria* which calls in columns not to encumber but to support, and reproduces ancient beauty in combinations unknown to the ancients themselves."

Unfortunately Palladio seems to have had little real appreciation of the qualities, and æsthetic value, of materials, and he used them very indifferently. He was also, to some extent, the victim of the conditions obtaining in his day, which, in his Vicentine work at least, forced him to obtain ambitious results at small cost and with the poor materials which the district allowed—so that his buildings generally are constructed of brick and finished externally with stucco, the Villa Capra being no exception. Vicentine stone is a notoriously unsatisfactory building material, and Palladio's *intónaco*, which produced a very hard surface, was probably the most effective substitute he could procure consistent with the apparently restricted means of his patrons. This plaster seems to have been a compound of burnt marble and lime.\* It is said of him, moreover, that he preferred constructing his edifices of brick for the reason that ancient buildings of burnt earth, covered with composition, remained more entire than those of stone. To have produced such effects as he did, despite the disadvantages of inferior materials, is greatly to the credit of Palladio as an architect, and the products of his genius illustrate again the value of scholarly proportion as the premier æsthetic quality of fine building. For, as Sir Wm. Chambers has put it, "an able writer can move even in rustic language, and the masterly dispositions of a skilful artist will dignify the meanest materials; while the weak efforts of the ignorant render the most costly enrichments despicable." Small wonder, then, that such skill was in general demand by the Vicentine gentry of his day—whose family pride seemed so generally in excess of their material wealth—and that, as a result, one writer on North Italian life professes to see "the cold hand of that friend of virtuous poverty in architecture lie heavy upon his native city."†

The Huns of Attila ravaged, in A.D. 452, the district in which this villa stands, and laid waste several cities, including Vicenza‡—providing, incidentally, the cause which led to the founding of the island city of Venice. In more recent history the Austrians bombarded Vicenza, in the year 1848, after a battle on Monte Berico, and occupied the Convent of Santa Maria and the Rotonda, stripping the latter of all that could be moved and despoiling, to some extent, its ornaments and statuary. Since then it appears to have been left uninhabited. War is no friend to architecture when it is responsible for the wanton and irreparable mutilation or destruction of so many of its masterpieces. Time and nature, in their effects, have this advantage—that, though certain in destructive force, the process is generally a slow and gradual one, and centuries, perhaps, of gentle caress and varying phases of beauty precede the inevitable end.

All feel the assault of fortune's fickle gale—  
Art, empire, earth itself to change are doomed.

And this old garden, with its glorious plants and flowers—growing now in such wild profusion—tells the same story of abandonment and neglect as the house. The beauty of the picture emphasises its melancholy aspect and fills the mind with regrets.

There is frequently an air of poverty and desolation about Italian buildings that brings one to despair, and the villas of the Brenta and Bacchiglione are not devoid of it—having nothing, in some

\* The floors are considered to be formed of a similar mixture and of pounded brick. When rolled with a heavy roller the surface became so highly polished as to resemble "porphyry or verd-antique."

† W. D. Howells (*Italian Journeys*)—with whose opinion we do not necessarily agree.

‡ "The Huns mounted to the assault with irresistible fury; and the succeeding generation could scarcely discover the ruins of Aquileia. After this dreadful punishment Attila pursued his march; and as he passed the cities of

Altinum, Concordia, and Padua were reduced into heaps of stones and ashes. The inland towns, Vicenza, Verona, and Bergamo were exposed to the rapacious cruelty of the Huns. Milan and Pavia submitted, without resistance, to the loss of their wealth, and applauded the unusual clemency which preserved from the flames the public, as well as private, buildings; and spared the lives of the captive multitude."—Gibbon, *The Decline and Fall of the Roman Empire*.

cases, but the painful suggestion of contrast to connect them with the olden days of light-hearted pleasure-seeking, when they formed a setting for scenes of gay enjoyment or of splendour in which the human element played its appropriate part. In the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries it was the fashion of the merchants and gentry of Venice to build villas, or "palazzini," in beautiful natural positions on the Venetian mainland, particularly on rising ground or lining the edge of rivers, and to decorate them internally with the work of native painters and externally to surround them with finely planned gardens, enclosures and statuary. Life must then have appeared in its most pleasurable aspect, even as now an abandoned mansion and neglected, weed-grown, garden suggest almost the extreme of wasted opportunity and desolation. Perhaps a revived Italy, following the Great War, will cure the evil; and increasing prosperity restore the appropriate use of those fine structures which ill-fortune has too long withheld from the proper fulfilment of their purpose. Even fine architecture must lose somewhat in effect when separated from the human associations that give it meaning. The atmosphere of charming and elegant romanticism which one may suitably connect with the earlier history of this building—as is, for example, finely imagined in Signorina Ciardi's recent painting, "*Il convegno alla Villa Rotonda*"—will never recur, but perhaps we may look for an aspect of life in the future that is more real, if less pictorial, and, maybe, better worth having. It would be pleasant, anyway, to see—as part of a general change for the better that we hope for—abandoned and desolated Italian villas restored to use once more; no longer conveying only the suggestion of "sad-coloured, weather-worn stucco hermitages, where the mutilated statues, swaggering above the gates, forlornly commemorate days when it was a far finer thing to be a noble than it is now."



From the painting by Emma Ciardi.

RETROSPECT.

## THE UNIFICATION COMMITTEE.

Discussion at the First Meeting, 20th July.\*

Mr. JOHN W. SIMPSON, *President*, in the Chair.

The SECRETARY (Mr. Ian MacAlister): The report of the Special General Meeting of the R.I.B.A. on the 22nd of March, which was summoned for the purpose of obtaining the sanction of the general body of members for the Council's proposals as the first step towards the unification and registration of the profession, has been circulated to all the Members of the Committee.

The CHAIRMAN: Does the Committee wish the report of the Committee to be read? It has been circulated and published. [*Agreed to be taken as read.*]

The SECRETARY: That report was discussed, and the following resolutions were passed:

1. "That this General Meeting of the Royal Institute of British Architects approves of the Council's proposal to prepare and present, for the consideration of the profession, a more extended and comprehensive scheme than that covered by the Resolutions of 1914."
2. "That this General Meeting of the Royal Institute of British Architects approves of the Council's proposal to appoint a Committee representative of the whole profession to prepare such a scheme as is indicated in the report of the Charter Committee, dated 20th February 1920."

In pursuance of those resolutions the different bodies specified were asked to send representatives, the invitations were accepted in all cases, and the Committee has now been called together for its inaugural Meeting.

The CHAIRMAN: There is a little preliminary business which we had better get through as soon as possible before we start the discussion. We should appoint a Vice-Chairman and an Honorary Secretary of the General Committee, and we ought to ask the Committee to appoint an Executive, as there will be a good deal of detail to work out. It should be as small as convenient. Has anybody views as to who should be the Vice-Chairman?

MAJOR BARNES, M.P.: I would like to move that the Vice-Chairman be the President of the Society of Architects.

Mr. YERBURY seconded. [*Carried unanimously.*]

The CHAIRMAN: We have now to elect an Honorary Secretary.

Mr. MAURICE WEBB: I propose Mr. Arthur Keen be appointed the Honorary Secretary.

Mr. F. R. TAYLOR seconded. [*Carried unanimously.*]

Mr. SYDNEY PERKS: Before we come to the Executive Committee, may I suggest we do not appoint an Executive Committee, but rather that we appoint a Sub-Committee? I do not think it would be wise at present to appoint an Executive Committee. Probably it may be the same thing, but an Executive Committee has power to carry out proposals which possibly we may know nothing about. I think all matters of policy should be decided by this Committee. I would not like to hand over my power to an Executive Committee and be bound by its decisions. In the big charity affairs there is a huge committee, and you hand over your functions to the Executive Committee to do all the work, and the General Committee politely retires and does nothing. None of us here, I am sure, wants to retire and do nothing. It would be wiser, I think, to simply appoint a Sub-Committee.

The CHAIRMAN: After all, I think it is only a question of names; there is no intention to give the Executive Committee power to carry things out. There will be drafting of schemes to do. I have ventured to draft a list for a Sub-Committee which, I think, should be as widely representative as possible of the different views on the subject which have been put forward. Perhaps you will be kind enough to take them down, gentlemen. The Chairman,

Vice-Chairman, and Honorary Secretary are on it *ex officio*. I have carefully chosen these names as those of men who will probably be able to give time to the matter, because a good deal of time will be required. It will be open to anybody to suggest other names.

Representing the Royal Institute: Mr. James Gibson, Sir Banister Fletcher, Mr. Horace Cubitt, Mr. Leonard Elkington, Mr. Penty, Major Barnes, M.P.

For the Society of Architects: I have not had time to consult the Society, but I suggest Mr. Sadgrove. How many names have you to suggest, Mr. Sadgrove?

Mr. SADGROVE: Besides myself, Sir Charles Ruthen, Mr. McArthur Butler, and Mr. Noel Sheffield.

The CHAIRMAN: For the Architectural Association: Mr. Maurice Webb. For the Official Architects: Mr. Sydney Perks. For the Institute of Scottish Architects: Mr. Whitie. For the Allied Societies: Mr. Buckland (Birmingham). For the Unattached Architects: Mr. G. E. Marshall (Liverpool).

That list gives us seventeen names, and I think that is a large enough Sub-Committee. But it is open to anybody to make suggestions.

Mr. EVANS: The Architects' Assistants' Professional Union are not represented on that Sub-Committee.

Mr. PENTY: My name has been mentioned, but I am sorry to say I shall not be able to give the necessary time. I would like to suggest Mr. Yerbury in my place.

Mr. PERKS: May we add Mr. Welch? I have not consulted him, but he has taken a great interest in this matter.

The CHAIRMAN: We do not want to make the number too large, but there is no objection, I think, to making it nineteen.

Mr. PERKS: I move that Mr. Welch's name be added. I am very much obliged to you for submitting my name, but I would suggest Mr. Riley's name in my place; he is President of the Official Architects' Association. Failing him, I shall be glad to stand.

The CHAIRMAN: We will leave that to you, Mr. Perks.

Mr. PENTY: I suggest the Architects' Assistants' Union be represented, and for it I nominate Mr. Evans.

The CHAIRMAN: I put it to the meeting that there be a representative of the Architects' Assistants' Union on the Sub-Committee, and that Mr. Evans be that representative. [*Carried.*]

The CHAIRMAN: The Sub-Committee will be in constant touch with the General Committee, and nothing can be done without this General Committee approving every step that may be taken.

Mr. EVANS: I think you should state now, before the Sub-Committee is elected, what work it is proposed we should delegate to that Sub-Committee.

The CHAIRMAN: That, obviously, we shall have to decide to-day. We cannot decide that until the General Committee has formulated its policy. It will depend upon this Committee what the Sub-Committee will do. We are only appointing a Sub-Committee to do the spade-work of drafting. I will read the names: The Chairman, Vice-Chairman and Honorary Secretary *ex officio*, Mr. Gibson, Sir Banister Fletcher, Mr. Cubitt, Mr. Elkington, Mr. Yerbury, Major Barnes, Mr. Noel Sheffield, Sir Charles Ruthen, Mr. McArthur Butler, Mr. Marshall, Mr. Maurice Webb, Mr. Sydney Perks (or Mr. Riley), Mr. Whitie, Mr. Buckland, Mr. Welch, Mr. Llewellyn Evans.

Mr. PERKS: I formally move that list.

Mr. CORLETTE: I second it.

It was unanimously agreed that these gentlemen form the Sub-Committee.

The CHAIRMAN: We now come to the real business of the meeting, and that is, the unification and registration of the profession. As far as unification of the profession is concerned, I am not quite sure that the fact of this meeting is not, in itself, a proof that the profession has been unified, and that we are prepared to discuss here amicably

\* A list of members present was given in the Minutes of this Meeting, published in the last issue of the JOURNAL.

what our policy should be in the future. We have met here with the lessons of the war before us; indeed, the demand for a Single Command of the Armies is still fresh in our minds. We have met at a time which, I think, we have never experienced previously, when all bitterness has disappeared between the different sections of the profession, and we are all agreed to pursue a common purpose and to set aside all selfish interests whatever. It is really, in its way, an historic occasion in the profession: we have met as a Parliament of Architects. No man here represents himself; everyone here represents a body of constituents behind him, and, together, we may claim to represent every reputable member of the profession. (Hear, hear.) A common end, therefore, is agreed upon, and it only remains for us now to decide the best means of carrying out that object and making the result permanent.

Before we begin the discussion I would like to define my own position in the matter. You have been good enough to make me Chairman. I conceive the first duty of a Chairman is to be perfectly independent and impartial. I have done my work, in a way, in getting this meeting together, and you may take it from me that there will be no kind of influence used, no wire-pulling, and no kind of endeavour to influence your decisions in any way, unless it is by open argument such as may appeal to you. That, I think, is the correct position for a Chairman to take up, and you may be sure I shall follow it. (Hear, hear.)

I have heard a great many suggestions made as to how we should proceed, and they seem to me to be capable of being boiled down to two alternatives: there is very much to be said, I think, for both of them. The first idea or suggestion—which, for convenience of reference, I may call “A”—is the absorption of all existing societies into one body. Well, that presents some obvious difficulties at the outset. But those difficulties should not prevent our very full consideration of such a course, and especially so if we think that its subsequent result is likely to be for the benefit of the profession. If, however, such a course is likely to lead to internal dissensions later on, then it will not effect the real purpose of this body, which is to unify the profession—and unification, of course, is not necessarily synonymous with amalgamation. The point is, we want to get on to the same lines and to use every effort towards a common policy.

The second alternative—which I will call “B”—seems to be to take all the existing bodies as they are—to allow, so to speak, all the rivers and rivulets to run in the beds which they have formed for themselves by time, and to connect them all up with a sort of “cut,” of which the force will be directed to turning the mill-wheel of registration. That is the line of least resistance, in the initial stage, at any rate. It is for you to consider whether the ultimate flow will be more, or less, smooth than that which would be effected by the first scheme I have put before you in brief and called “A.” But, essentially, the need is that whatever conclusion is arrived at should be reached by free and kindly argument and by reason, so that the profession will be practically unanimous, and, having arrived at a decision, everyone will give it, as the policy agreed upon, full support and help to make it work. Unification will be merely a phrase unless it is based upon two great facts: the first is mutual goodwill, and the second is the absence of all selfishness.

With regard to our meeting to-day, it may be impossible—it may not even be desirable—that we should finally come to a decision as to which of those policies, or what policy, we should agree upon. We have set up our Sub-Committee, and I think the great thing is to get it to work as soon as possible. It may be that its members will be asked to draft the skeleton, not of one scheme only but of two, and circulate those outlines to the members of this Committee, who have, in their turn, to consult their constituent bodies, and meet again later to decide definitely what should be done. For the moment I ask you not to

trouble about details, the full-size drawings, so to speak, but to set your minds on the main drawings and consider the details later on. (Applause). There is no order of speaking: anybody can start the ball.

Mr. IVOR JONES: One thing which occurred to me with regard to the selection of this Sub-Committee was this. I take it that the Sub-Committee will place before the General Committee the draft scheme they come to and that the matter will be voted upon?

The CHAIRMAN: Agreed upon, I hope. The procedure will be that this Committee will remit to the Sub-Committee the general lines of policy and ask them to draft a scheme.

Mr. JONES: The point I wished to raise was this. Speaking on behalf of the Allied Societies, the members of those Societies represent a very large number, the majority of the profession, and so the Allied Societies are in a responsible position. If we have to come up here to vote upon, or agree to, the findings of the Sub-Committee without taking the opinions of our constituents we shall be in a very awkward position, because, as you said, sir, we are not here personally, and my personal opinion and the opinion of my 150 or more members in South Wales is that we should have the findings of the Sub-Committee before they are brought for decision in the General Committee.

The CHAIRMAN: Certainly; that is obvious. The Sub-Committee, as they formulate suggestions, will circulate them before the General Committee meets to consider them, so they will have time to consider the matter themselves and consult their constituent bodies.

Mr. TAYLOR: I think we should put this meeting on a firm basis now. Therefore I move that the Sub-Committee be instructed to draft reports of schemes, as were explained by yourself, such as “A” and “B,” and submit them to the members of this Committee, and after the members of this Committee have considered them with those they represent, this Committee should then meet and discuss the matters before them.

The CHAIRMAN: You suggest that it should be an instruction to the Sub-Committee that they should draft the scheme, or a scheme, under each of those two heads which I outlined in my remarks just now, and circulate them for consideration?

Mr. PERKS: I agree with the suggestion that we should refer to this Sub-Committee to inquire into matters and bring up schemes for consideration, and that we should not limit their effort to “A” or “B,” or even “C”; rather that they should have a free hand. There may be many ways of carrying out this unification, and some other scheme may emerge out of the debate. I think the Sub-Committee should have a free hand to inquire into and bring up various schemes for our consideration. I do not think that at present we can decide it here, because there are so many things which would have to be gone into, and the Sub-Committee may very likely want to get evidence. I should be sorry to decide this afternoon on any one scheme; the matter wants careful consideration first.

The CHAIRMAN: I do not think you followed exactly what I said in my remarks. The intention, I suggest, is that it might not be possible or advisable to do this this afternoon, but we could talk about the ways of doing it. But it would be wrong to leave the Sub-Committee in the dark as to how to work. We must give them a line.

Mr. PERKS: I shall be glad to leave it in that way, that they should bring up “A” and “B” and any other scheme which they may think advisable for consideration. I have no other scheme in my head, but there might be one when the matter is discussed. I only want to give them power to bring up anything they may think fit.

Mr. YERBURY: If the character of the Sub-Committee be made as widely representative as possible, they will have a better chance of getting what you want. The only question is, can we get what we want? And if you leave it for the Sub-Committee to bring forward some proposal which we can discuss it will require many days’ discussion.

We cannot settle it in one month, perhaps not in one year, but if we work on the lines suggested by the President, I feel sure we shall unify the profession, although I am not so optimistic as you are in thinking we have done so. And I should be glad if you would instruct the Sub-Committee to consider the constitution of this Committee. Even if we arrive at a proposal which will be satisfactory to us when we get it, the other members of the profession who do not belong here may not be able to accept it: fifty-three are R.I.B.A. men and only thirteen are from outside. I think it would be possible for the Society of Architects to nominate ten members who are not members of this Institute, and for the A.A. to nominate ten men who are not members of the Institute. It would be a much bigger Committee, and you would get a decision which would carry something like finality with it. But if you go to the profession generally, and put before them a scheme agreed to by fifty-three members of the Institute and only thirteen representative of architects outside the Institute, I am afraid you will not arrive at the finality you require.

Mr. BUTLER: I agree we cannot go into details now, but I think we should have no difficulty in instructing the Sub-Committee, on a question of principle, as to whether this meeting favours what we may call "absorption," or the scheme which you called "federation." They are both matters which can be discussed, I think, without going very much into detail. There are many architects here to-day, and it is the first meeting, and I agree with you, sir, that it is an historic meeting, and one which is likely to have very wide effects. So it seems a pity that we should not, now we are here, consider this matter in some detail, because it is likely we may not get exactly the same representatives together again without some difficulty. Therefore I hope we shall have an opportunity of expressing our opinions on these two problems before the matter is put before the Sub-Committee.

Major BARNES: There is no scheme at all at present. I should have thought that in this meeting the difficulty would have been to keep the men down, but the difficulty seems rather to be to get them to get up.

The CHAIRMAN: Architects are very modest, Major Barnes.

Mr. BUTLER: We must, I think, get rid of modesty to a large extent. I did not want to inflict my views on the meeting, but I think the time has come when the question of absorption or amalgamation should be finally considered. I do not think we ought to look back at all: it is a mistake to look back on what has gone: that is past. We do not know what the future holds for us: but we have the present, and, personally, I see very great difficulty in regard to the absorption of all other existing bodies into one institution or organization—presumably the Royal Institute of British Architects. I am so afraid of opening up matters with which some of us are acquainted in years gone by, and which would be very unpleasant if brought up again, and we hope they will be relegated to the limbo of forgotten things. My solution of the whole problem is a federation of the existing bodies. In fact, I favour constituting this Committee as an Architects' Federation. We have an example on the other side of the water, in France, where, on the 20th of February this year, the Rules for the Federation of French Architects were drawn up, in which the existing bodies—there are half a dozen of them, and I have the papers here which I shall be pleased to hand over to the Executive—those bodies were federated on simple and broad lines, which Rules have been adopted by those bodies, and therefore they have the approval of the whole profession. I feel that, if we are federated on simple and broad lines, we shall not soon have many unattached architects. My idea of federation is that it should be inclusive of all architectural bodies, that any members of those different bodies would be not only members of them, but members of the Federation—that is to say, they would be Federated Architects. Each member of this Institute

would be a member of the Federation, and each member of the Liverpool Society would be a member of the Federation, and so on. And when an architect who wants assistance comes before the Federation Council—to fight a case, for instance—he would receive it not because he was a member of the Liverpool Society, but because he was a member of the Architects' Federation. That is my view: it should be for defence, for the decision as to fees, and all sorts of things which we have been struggling about for a long time, including troubles with Departments—I need not name them. If we could work together in this way we should carry much greater weight; it would not be throwing a single brick by one architect, but it would be the capacity to throw a block of bricks. That is very crudely put, but I wish to affirm my opinion, which is very well-known by readers of architectural and other papers, that we should take into serious consideration this proposal which I have suggested for an Architects' Federation. In my view it would not stop at architects. You mentioned registration just now, sir, and it would be one of the objects of the Federation to deal with that. At the present time, if we go to Parliament, they say, "There are two bodies, at least: settle your own differences first, then come to us." We should be doing that under this suggestion, and I think there would be a joint Bill, for there are other bodies marching in the same direction: engineers, surveyors, auctioneers, and we should go to them and adjust matters generally, and arrange for all the professions to go together with separate Bills, but Bills which are agreed to by the separate parties, so that Parliament will not be able to say the engineers won't have this and the architects won't have that. We want to show them what we will each have, and then the Bills will have every chance of success. There is another point in regard to this architectural profession. We are brought, indirectly, into contact with many things connected with buildings, and there are certain parties trying to get hold of the professions, and I want to say we need to be banded together, not only for our professional protection, but also for other reasons which will occur to gentlemen who take a wide view on this subject, and I hope this suggestion for an Architects' Federation on broad lines will be considered by this Committee to-day. (Applause.)

Mr. YERBURY: I did not want to trouble you again, but I would like to say I feel the best thing would be scheme "A," that we should make the best effort to include every architect within the R.I.B.A.; we ought to take in every architect in the profession, and put him under one cover. (Hear, hear.) We should then be all fighting for one thing, and that one thing should be the future of the architect and of architecture. And I think the reason we have not enthusiasm amongst architects is that we have no propaganda work. In every profession which is open and is going to be closed the present generation must be willing to make the sacrifices. We shall have to face it in the same way as the auctioneers, the lawyers, and the accountants have done, and some of you will, in the meantime, have to put up with sacrifices. And all you can say is, that what you are doing to-day is for the benefit of your children and your children's children, and for the benefit of the community, and for the infinite advantage of civic architecture in this country and that it shall stand in its proper position as a leader in the Arts. But if we approach it from the merely business standpoint and say if we are federated we shall be able to get so much more in fees, or we shall then be able to go to the Government and say "You shall not appoint an official architect because you shall not be in competition with us," then we shall be talking and working for our own personal view, and at the present time we may as well give up the idea, because we are wasting our time.

Sir BANISTER FLETCHER: You have been good enough to nominate me on this Committee, and I did not know what you were going to discuss to-day, or that you were going to discuss this question of what you will ask the Sub-

Committee to do. I feel that what the last speaker said lies at the root of the whole matter. Here we have an old Institute, which has been in existence a hundred years, which has been the recognized head of this profession, and all that time has been doing good work for architects and architecture. And it seems to me that the only thing to do is to let it remain in that very strong position, but add to it such strength as we may find it is necessary to add to keep it so and bring it up to date. It seems to me we are the basis of this Federation which is talked about. I think it may be truly said—I speak under correction—that every architect of note in this country, with the exception of those who belong to the Society of Architects who are also of note, belongs to this Institute or to one of its Allied Societies. I would go to any length to get outsiders: I would elect them as Fellows, or as Super-Fellows, to get them into this Institute; I would take in the whole body of the Society of Architects, lock, stock, and barrel, because I do not think the idea of federation is a workable one, because directly you have federation you must have an expensive staff, and we should have to pay others to do the work which we are capable of doing. I feel that, unless we can get the Institute so to arrange this business that it shall still be the representative body of this profession, I can almost say, now and here, that unless we do that, I shall not be able to sign this Report. I feel that that is so important as the basis of the whole thing that I am prepared to give everything that the outside architect wants, in order to get him into the Institute, to make him one of us, so that we can speak, not as we do now, with several mouths, but with one united voice, when anything comes forward which affects the architects of this country or architecture. (Applause.)

MR. SADDGROVE: I shall not be like the last speaker, who seems to have made up his mind before he has heard what the other fellow has to say. Although I have my own view in regard to many matters in connection with the profession, like lack of unity in the past, I shall not say whether "A" or "B" would be the better, because I believe in thoroughly thrashing both of them out, and then submitting them to the General Committee, so that we may hear which is the better of the two. Let us have both schemes. I shall not start with making up my mind. With regard to the Federation side of the matter being supposed to be impracticable, I shall not say it would be unworkable. I do not know that it would not be a very good thing. If the idea is to get every man who has a vested interest in architecture into the membership of the Institute or some other society that is a very good scheme; but there are a large number of men who practise architecture who belong to other professions—who belong to the Surveyors' Institution, for instance—and there are members who belong to the auctioneers' profession, who are sanitary engineers, and the like. I am not sure that it would be the best thing altogether to have members of that class as Institute men or as Society of Architects men. But I see no reason why those men should not be allowed to continue their practice under a fixed set of conditions, which could be arrived at by a Federation or a central body—I use the word for convenience. But there are many vital matters which the central control body should control, which should be something more than an architects' body. For instance, let us take one thing: the National Building Code. We had an illustration the other day of a little unfortunate position on which we should have been unified. The Federation of Builders are proposing a National Building Code. Some of us have folded our arms and turned our backs on it and said "We will have none of it." But there are some good points in it, and if this Institute and the Society of Architects could have seen eye to eye with these builders it would have been a better thing than what has actually happened. We of the Society did not think it was wise to turn our backs upon it, and so we went to see them, and our first interview resulted

in the question, "Are you not going into this with the Institute?" "Yes." "Why didn't you tell us so? Let us abandon this preliminary meeting and let us all discuss it." That is the proper thing to do. Architects may agree a Code with the builders, but what about the Surveyors' Institution? What about the engineers and the municipal authorities? They have all got a finger in the pie, and you cannot rope all these people in under your Architectural Institute. But you could have them represented in a Federation, and you could have a very powerful Federation, equal to a powerful Parliament, and you could have a united voice on such things as town-planning, public competitions, documents which are issued to the profession, all housing requirements, war memorials—and, I will pause on the word "memorial," to say we have heard of one suggested, and I think the architect should have something to say about it before anything is done with regard to that building which it is proposed to erect somewhere in the neighbourhood of Hyde Park Corner. There are also such things as conferences with Government Departments. And then we have to tackle the multiple traders, butchers, and so on, who are coming into the work of architects. I could go on for some little while on that, but I only want to speak briefly on the salient points which I think are so important in the matter of unity. So I would deal with the matter, not from the point of view of architects alone, but for other professional societies. No doubt the Sub-Committee will consider whether an architectural body, as such, can do that better than a Federation which has representatives on it of all the various institutions which have a vested interest in architecture. We shall consider all those things on the Sub-Committee, and the reports which will come up as a result will be threshed out in detail. I am sure you will have something to read when you get that report.

MR. EVANS: One speaker said it is a good thing to be getting on with the business. We have heard a plea for fusion or absorption and a word for federation. As representing the body of assistants in this country, I may say I have no mandate; I come here simply with instructions to watch. I daresay the representatives of Allied Societies have come to watch also, and if the question is put to this General Committee whether they are in favour of absorption they might vote one way or the other on it. But the principal number on the Sub-Committee might vote the other way. But the question is, are those people who vote representing by it those they are sent from? It seems to me that when this Sub-Committee sits it should first of all obtain from their constituents what it is they are in favour of, and then the Committee would know what scheme to proceed with. But are we representing the voice and the views of the whole profession?

MR. LAWRENCE: The next point is how the proposals are to be considered by the Allied Societies. I have been a member of an Allied Society eleven years and a member of the Institute for nearly that time, and it has been for a long time clear to me that the interests of the Allied Societies and the interests of the people in London are not always the same. But I had better put it in this way: that you in London are not always aware of all the conditions we have to deal with in the provinces. On your Sub-Committee you have twenty Allied Societies represented, and you have various London associations. The Allied Societies have one representative. I hope, when the Sub-Committee meets, that representative will not allow our interests to be overlooked, because many of us are a long way from London. I have been a member, one way or another, for nearly thirty years, and I have been here once. We have a point of view in the provinces, and I hope that when this matter is discussed that point of view will be brought forward with all the respect it can be. I do not see how it would be possible for you in London to absorb, as an Institute, all people, and how it will properly and clearly legislate for the provinces. But I hope that when the Sub-Committee

has met, and the thing has been considered, some way out will be found. On behalf of my Society, I can say we are only anxious for the interests of the profession as a whole.

The CHAIRMAN: I would like to say again what I fear I have not made clear. It is that, whatever instruction is given to the Sub-Committee, the Sub-Committee will send their proposals and suggestions to every member of this Committee for their consideration. That means that it will go to every Allied Society, and that their representatives will have thereby the opportunity of consulting their own bodies and obtaining their views upon it. (Hear, hear.) So, until that has been done, it is quite certain that this Committee will not come to any definite decision. All that we can hope to do to-day—it may not be possible to do even that: it rests with you—is to give the Sub-Committee something to start work upon, and perhaps we could get as far as giving them an indication on whether scheme "A" or scheme "B" is preferred by us, or whether the meeting feels it would like to have a draft scheme on both lines. No speaker yet has suggested a third proposal, but there may be a third suggestion which may be better than either of the other two which I have put forward. But nothing will be pushed through, because the one thing essential, if we are to have unification and be a really united body, is that we should be unanimous.

Mr. JONES: If you put Schemes "A" and "B" before the meeting this afternoon, the Allied representatives could not vote upon it, because they must first take the matter into consideration with their constituents and get their vote upon it. Therefore I think the Sub-Committee should have full powers to bring one or more schemes before the Committee for consideration, first notifying the various bodies before that Committee meeting is held.

Mr. REES: Should the Committee gather what has been done by other societies, and take evidence?

The CHAIRMAN: It will be the duty of the Sub-Committee to inquire.

Mr. REES: I propose that we do not make any proposition so as to prevent that: but that they gather this information and circulate it to the Allied Societies, and that the various Presidents of those Societies discuss it and take a vote, and then we shall be able to come with definite and precise instructions to this Committee to prepare a scheme, not two or three schemes. That should be placed before the whole of the Allied Societies first, the Society of Architects and outside architects, and after that we should come here again and discuss it on that evidence, having taken the opinion of our various societies, and we should give them definite instructions when we know what we are talking about. I may now be in favour of "A," but when we have the information from this Sub-Committee I may be in favour of "B," or of "C," and I shall have the backing of my Council to come here and support "B" or "C." And my friend Mr. Jones and my Bristol friend will have the same feeling, that we should like to have evidence to put before our Allied Societies. Then when we come back to this meeting we can give your Sub-Committee definite instructions to your chosen men to prepare a scheme on those lines.

Mr. JONES: If that is done, should there be a narrow majority for one or other scheme, that would not give satisfaction.

The CHAIRMAN: Yes; instead of our meeting here and arguing and discussing the whole policy, we should be meeting with definite instructions to impart which we have received from our constituents, and then it would be very difficult to come by mutual discussion to any kind of terms or to give way to secure a decision. That is the practical difficulty which I see in the suggestion. I think the suggestion of Mr. Jones was the more practical one, namely, that the Sub-Committee should draft a scheme on the general lines of what we have called "A," and which Mr. McArthur Butler calls "Absorption," as against Federation; that we should have a scheme on both, and then we

should have some definite lines on which to consider the matter with the Allied Societies.

Mr. PERKS: I move: "That it be referred to the Sub-Committee to consider and submit schemes to the Grand Committee for the purpose of unification." That leaves the Sub-Committee free to bring forward as many schemes as they like.

The CHAIRMAN: That is pushing responsibility which belongs to this meeting on to the shoulders of the Sub-Committee. We ought to give them some indication of what we want of them, otherwise they will be in the air.

Mr. PERKS: It simply authorises them to submit as many schemes as they like, after inquiry. I do not ask the Sub-Committee to suggest a scheme: all I ask is that they will consider and submit schemes, which they can draft out, with the advantages and disadvantages; then we can have all the facts before us to vote upon.

The CHAIRMAN: Has Mr. Perks a seconder?

Mr. JONES: I have pleasure in seconding that.

Major BARNES: As an amendment, in order to bring the meeting to some decision, I propose "That the Committee be asked to draft schemes on lines of 'A' and 'B.'" And I would like to submit to the meeting that there is nothing really outside those lines.

Mr. PERKS: Probably you are right.

Major BARNES: I think there is nothing outside that. We are here representing separate bodies considering the question of unification, and we have got alternatives. We must either unify in an existing body, which is "A," or we must unify in a new body, which is "B." That is the first conclusion we have to come to. If we decide "A," that involves a selection of the existing body which we will unify with. If we decide on "B," that will involve the constitution of the new body. If we decide on "A," then the problem would be comparatively simple, we should be absorbed, or amalgamated, or whatever term you like to use for it. If we decided on "B," we should have alternatives, not on federation but on the method of federating. For instance, if we decide on federation, each body will have to decide whether it is going to vest all its functions in the new body, or whether it would vest some of its functions and retain the remainder. But they would not be alternatives as between "A" and "B." So I suggest there is no "C," and that if we ask the Committee definitely to consider and draft schemes "A" and "B," we are not really putting any arbitrary limit upon them, but we are putting a definite proposition, and the solution of that, in so far as it commended itself to the Grand Committee, would bring us to one thing or the other, going on or not proceeding. And therefore, as I am sure all of us desire to reap the advantages of unification—we believe there are advantages, and, speaking for myself, I am very much in the same condition as other members, I am not clear as to the exact extent of the advantages—in that direction the Sub-Committee will be extremely helpful in making that clear to all members of the Committee and to all their constituents. I beg to move that we refer to this Sub-Committee the business of framing and drafting and then reporting to the Grand Committee schemes carrying out the proposals "A" and "B."

Major CORLETTE: I would say a word or two in seconding the resolution of Major Barnes. It is a question of the manner and method under which we shall either unify ourselves or federate ourselves. I am sure Major Barnes has in his mind the federation principles of the United States compared with those of Canada, and again, compared with those of Australia. They are all different in certain elements. We have very little before us by way of alternative to either union in some form or federation in some form. But, speaking as a representative of the Commonwealth of Australia here, I suggest that, whether we have union or federation, we ought to provide for some form of decentralisation—(hear, hear)—because not only Australia, but other Dominions, have their own local Societies, and

they are allied to this Institute. And I am sure I am right in saying that they have the greatest respect for the functions of this Institute, for its prestige, and would like to support it in every way. But let us, in any scheme, whether of union or federation, provide for devolution in some form, so that, although there may be a central authority, we should not centralise all the authority and take all the responsibility from those at the circumference. One speaker referred to the federation among French architects. I do not know under what principle it takes place, but it is interesting to hear of federation in France because I understand the French have always thought in the direction of centralisation. But it might be interesting to the Sub-Committee to have more facts put before them on the question of federation as it has taken place in France. I suggest we do not attempt to copy the French or France too much: we are English, and we have certain principles for which we stand before the rest of the world. We are a little inclined to disparage our own powers and abilities, but there is still a good deal of ability and originality in the old country.

Mr. TAYLOR: I have much pleasure in supporting the resolution moved by Major Barnes, which has already been seconded. I think by instructing the Sub-Committee to obtain evidence and get particulars from every representative we shall be enabled eventually to prepare a scheme which will be satisfactory to the whole of the profession. Moreover, by considering "A" and "B" we shall be able to decide whether "A" is the better or whether "B" is the better. Absorption, to my mind, has certain disadvantages, and those disadvantages will be brought forward by the members of the Sub-Committee, as will also the advantages which may accrue to the whole profession. With regard to "B," which at the moment seems to me to be the best—I am not biased in any way, I have an open mind on the question—if the Committee are able to show that there are loopholes in "B" which may decide this Committee in favour of "A," I shall be pleased, if my constituents are of that opinion, to fall into line; in that way we shall arrive at a conclusion which is bound to be satisfactory. The two suggestions "A" and "B" seem to me to give a free hand to the Sub-Committee as to their report. They will report upon both schemes, or suggestions, and I think nothing but good could come from it and that when we meet again we shall be in a position to decide one way or the other.

Mr. WELCH: On reflection and consideration of all that has been said, I feel, as Major Barnes does, that it is either "A" or "B," and I think a course totally outside that is quite out of the question. Therefore, before we part I would like to ask this: that those members who form the Unification Committee but who do not form the Sub-Committee which has been elected out of this body, will not go away from this room feeling that they have done all that they should do until the Sub-Committee's report comes up. I ask them heartily for all the help they can give us in the meantime, because it is only by help which they can give us, through the post or otherwise, from time to time, as we are labouring, that we can bring out the best to our full satisfaction.

Mr. OLDRIEVE: In supporting Major Barnes's proposition I would like to say that those of us who live a long way from London and are anxious not to come up very frequently, would like, if possible, to know if there cannot be some kind of sub-section work in relation to this great question. Few of us hope we shall be able to get very much forward to-day; it is impossible to expect to do more than set the ball rolling, and I think when we reflect that we had this question under discussion thirty years ago there will be no wonder that we can afford to wait a little longer, and if we can get something done in two or three years we ought to feel satisfied, and those who are not immediately at work on this should trust the Sub-Committee and not expect too much from them. Let us, as has been suggested, do all we possibly can to help. But my object was to suggest that the question might be referred to sub-sections presently,

so that widely separated members might be employed upon some sectional work. For instance, there are four separate aspects of the question. What is being done in the matter of unification by other professions? We must remember that the accountants and others have all had the same battles to fight years ago, and one section might ascertain how they went to work successfully. And affairs in other countries might be investigated, for other countries have had the same thing to do in regard to this. Another section might work on Parliamentary procedure, so that we may not repeat the blunders which others have made in the past when it was a matter of having a definite Statute. Then the question of qualification might be taken up. It is such a pity, when you have a great meeting like this representing the whole profession, that we should waste our breath too much on cross-questioning and mere talk to no purpose. Therefore, I ask that the Committee should take up the question of sectional work, so that those from a distance may have their time saved.

Mr. PERKS: I move "That the question be now put." With the consent of my seconder, I withdraw my resolution; I do not know that there is any third course.

The CHAIRMAN: Mr. Perks having withdrawn his resolution, which was practically the same as Major Barnes's, only for some difference in definition, it has been moved by Major Barnes, and seconded by Major Corlette, that it be an instruction to the Sub-Committee that the Sub-Committee draft and submit to the Grand Committee alternative proposals for unification based respectively on absorption and federation. I put that to the Committee. *[The motion was carried unanimously.]*

The CHAIRMAN: Having set up our working body, and having given them a working instruction, it seems to me the useful business for the day is completed.

Mr. PERKS: I would like to propose a vote of thanks to our Chairman, who is our President. It is the first meeting held, and the Sub-Committee will get to work. It may be some time before we have another meeting. *[Carried by acclamation.]*

The CHAIRMAN: Thank you very much, gentlemen. It has been a great pleasure to me to come here to-day and to feel we are on the working lines, and I do not think we shall meet again without having something practical to submit to you.

## CORRESPONDENCE.

### "Professional Conduct and Practice."

Oriel Chambers, Doncaster: 16th August, 1920.

To the Editor, JOURNAL R.I.B.A.—

SIR,—With reference to the very excellent Code published in your last issue I think it will be generally conceded that "honourable" architects (a term which doubtless includes all members of the R.I.B.A. and many other members of the profession) are in the habit of conducting their practices in accordance with the spirit of the rules laid down.

It is well to have these ruling principles reduced to concrete terms, but is it not still more desirable that they should be instilled into the minds and consciences (if any) of those who most need them? I refer, Sir, to the large body of men who, without qualification or professional training, are now practising as architects.

One constantly hears of instances of such men breaking almost every rule of professional conduct and etiquette, yet these persons are regarded by the general public as being legitimate members of the profession and are even admired for their "progressive" business methods.

Shortly, I presume, when unification comes about, these persons will have to be formally admitted into and recognised by the profession. I would suggest therefore that their education should be commenced *now*. At the same time, could not something be done, through the lay press or otherwise, to enlighten the general public on matters appertaining to the status of the profession and so remove some portion of the blank ignorance that exists?

The trouble in these matters is that "Codes" and "Rules of Conduct" do not reach the people who most need information or reformation.—Yours faithfully,  
MORRIS THOMPSON [A.].

#### Clerks of Works' Salaries.

*Incorporated Clerks of Works Association,  
Carpenters' Hall, London Wall, E.C.2.  
28th July, 1920.*

To the Editor, JOURNAL R.I.B.A.,—

DEAR SIR,—Many architects, at the present time, do not appear to realise the great increase in the cost of living and rise in operatives' wages, for in some instances salaries are offered to Clerks of Works which are not much higher than the salaries paid prior to the war. Appreciating the good understanding which has always existed between architects and clerks of works, this Association appeals to architects to assist in remedying this unsatisfactory state of affairs. With that object they have formulated the enclosed Circular, copies of which have been sent to local authorities throughout the kingdom with gratifying results.

Before the war a clerk of works' salary was usually twice that of a skilled operative—i.e., when wages were 10½d. an hour for a 50-hour week, equal to £2 3s. 9d., the clerk of works received 4, 4½, and 5 guineas. Under the scale suggested in the Circular his pay would be as follows:—

Skilled operative's pay of 2s. 4d. per			
hour for 44-hour week .. ..	£5	2	8
66⅔ per cent. increase .. ..	3	8	5
Total .. ..	8	11	1
	(say 8 guineas)		

It will be seen that, although operatives' wages have increased about 150 per cent., clerks of works are asking for 66⅔ per cent. increase only.

The Association is desirous that this matter be brought to the notice of all members of the R.I.B.A., and would be grateful if you would kindly give space to this letter and the Circular in the next issue of the JOURNAL.—Yours faithfully,

C. W. DENNY, Secretary,  
*Incorporated Clerks of Works Association.*

The circular referred to sets out the following resolution, carried unanimously at a General Meeting held at Carpenters' Hall on 5th July, 1920:

"That this Association is of opinion that the minimum salary for clerks of works should be 66⅔ per cent. increase on the local rates for skilled operatives per week, and requests members to base the salary asked for on these minima when making application for appointments."



9 CONDUIT STREET, REGENT STREET, W., 28th August 1920.

#### CHRONICLE.

##### The President.

The President, Mr. John W. Simpson, has left England for Cairo on a mission for the Egyptian Government in connection with the Quasr-el-Aini Hospital.

##### Belgian Honours for a Past President of the Institute.

The King of the Belgians has bestowed upon Mr. Ernest Newton, O.B.E., R.A., Past President R.I.B.A., the Cross of Officer of the Order of the Crown. The Belgian Ambassador, in forwarding the insignia, stated that the Foreign Office had communicated to the Embassy his Majesty King George's permission to Mr. Newton to accept and wear the decoration on certain specific occasions. Mr. Newton, it will be remembered, had scarcely been installed in the Presidential Chair when the Great War broke out and he had to contend with the unprecedented difficulties and anxieties that beset the President of the Institute at that trying time. Amid the stress of it all he lost no opportunity of showing in the most generous form his sympathies with the numerous Belgian architects who had sought asylum in this country from the terrors of the German visitation. His own personal hospitalities and benefactions were freely bestowed upon the refugees. Such opportunities as his official position afforded were utilised to the utmost on their behalf, and he was unsparing of himself in his exertions for the amelioration of their hard fate. Gratifying testimony to the success of his efforts will be found in the letter addressed to the Institute from the President and Vice-Presidents of the East Flanders Society of Architects [JOURNAL for March, 1919], where it is stated that it was thanks to the R.I.B.A. that the greater number of their expatriated brethren were able to live in comfort and dignity. Mr. Newton will have the sincere congratulations of the profession upon the honours which have come to him.

##### Architectural Scholarships for Ex-Service Students.

The Council have formulated a scheme for providing a considerable number of Studentships for the benefit of ex-Service students who are taking courses at the various "Recognised" Schools of Architecture. These Studentships, which will be of the value of £50

a year for three or more years, will be awarded, on the recommendation of the School authorities, to students who are now completing their first-year course. In the case of students who are taking the ordinary three years course for exemption from the R.I.B.A. Intermediate Examination, the Studentships will be tenable for the remainder of the course. In the case of students who are taking a five-year Diploma Course, the tenure of the Studentships will be extended to cover the whole period. Certain conditions as to travelling for the purpose of study will be laid down. The Studentships will be termed "Henry Jarvis Travelling Studentships," and have been allocated as follows:—

To the *Architectural Association*, 3 Studentships of £50 a year each for from 3 to 5 years.

To the *Liverpool University School of Architecture*, 2 Studentships of £50 a year each for from 3 to 5 years.

To the *University of London School of Architecture*, 2 Studentships of £50 a year each for from 3 to 5 years.

To the *Manchester University School of Architecture*, 1 Studentship of £50 a year for from 3 to 5 years.

To the *Glasgow School of Architecture*, 1 Studentship of £50 a year for from 3 to 5 years.

To the *Edinburgh College of Art and Heriot Watt College*, 1 Studentship of £50 a year for from 3 to 5 years.

To the *Leeds School of Art*, 1 Studentship of £50 a year for from 3 to 5 years.

To the *Robert Gordon Technical College, Aberdeen*, 1 Studentship of £50 a year for from 3 to 5 years.

To the *Technical College, Cardiff*, 1 Studentship of £50 a year for from 3 to 5 years.

#### Increase in Value of Henry Jarvis Studentships.

In view of the increase in the cost of maintenance and travel since the War the Council of the Royal Institute of British Architects have decided to make the following increases in the value of R.I.B.A. Studentships:—

The *Henry Jarvis Travelling Studentship* tenable at the *British School at Rome*, increased from £200 a year for two years to £250 a year for two years.

The *Henry Jarvis Travelling Studentship* tenable at the *Architectural Association (London)*, increased from £40 to £50.

#### Council Appointments to Standing Committees.

The Council have made the following appointments to the four Standing Committees in accordance with Bye-Law 51:—

ART.—Sir Edwin Lutyens, R.A. [F.], Mr. H. V. Lanchester [F.], Mr. J. D. Coleridge [F.], Mr. Alfred Cox [F.], Mr. F. R. Hiorns [A.].

LITERATURE.—Major Harry Barnes, M.P. [F.], Mr. Theodore Fyfe [F.], Mr. T. S. Attlee [A.], Miss Ethel Charles [A.], Mr. C. E. Sayer [A.].

PRACTICE.—Mr. Arthur Keen [F.], Mr. G. Topham Forrest [F.], Mr. Delissa Joseph [F.], Mr. Herbert A. Satchell [F.], Mr. Herbert A. Welch [A.].

SCIENCE.—Sir Charles Ruthven, O.B.E. [F.], Mr. Arthur Ashbridge [F.], Mr. R. Stephen Ayling [F.], Mr. Felix Clay [F.], Mr. W. E. Riley [F.], Mr. R. J. Angel, M.I.C.E. [A.], Mr. Michael Waterhouse [A.], Mr. Charles Woodward [A.].

#### Labour for Building: Government Proposals under Discussion.

The following have been made public as the Government proposals for a national agreement in relation to the housing scheme:—

##### A. PROPOSALS FOR INCREASING THE SUPPLY OF LABOUR.

###### (i) Grading up of Unskilled Men.

Building labourers to be trained as bricklayers, slaters, tilers, plasterers, etc., for six months, working side by side with skilled operatives. To be classed as "learners," paid labourers' rates for three months, an intermediate rate for another three months, and then tradesmen's rates.

###### (ii) Apprentices.

The flow of apprentices to the trade to be resumed at the earliest possible moment, and not only youths to be accepted, but older men who have some knowledge of the industry, the latter to serve a somewhat shorter term than was customary in the case of youths indentured in the pre-war period. This term should be two years, and the men should be paid at labourers' rate for one year and an intermediate rate between labourers and tradesmen during the second year. The ordinary youth apprentice would come under the customary trade conditions.

###### (iii) Training of New Men.

Ex-Service men between the ages of 22 to 26 (inclusive) to be admitted to the trade and to go through a course of training. Trainees to be drafted on to housing sites after a short preliminary training, and their final course of instruction to be completed on the actual erection of houses. Trainees to be paid the present training allowances paid to disabled men under the scheme of the Ministry of Labour, and instructors to be paid the salaries customary in Ministry of Labour training centres.

In the case of carpenters, joiners and plumbers, trainees would require a longer period of training—not less than nine months. At the same time these men are to be utilised for rough carpentry and the manufacture of joinery for housing schemes during the latter period of training.

Generally the proportion of learners, apprentices and trainees to skilled men should be one semi-skilled man (learner, apprentice or trainee) to two skilled men, though such a high proportion might not be found possible in the erection of cottages.

###### (iv) Unemployment Insurance.

The magnitude of the housing scheme and the enormous arrears of other building which have to be made good result in very great demands for building labour which will continue for many years. In addition, it is to be remembered that building operatives will be insured against unemployment under the Government scheme, and that under the new Act they can make supplementary provision from trade union funds.

##### B. PROPOSALS FOR INCREASING OUTPUT.

###### (i) Guaranteed Week.

It is proposed that a guaranteed week should be granted for operatives engaged in building houses: this guaranteed week should be in accordance with the following main principles:—

(a) The offer of a "guaranteed week" means that the men shall not lose their entire wages during loss of time caused by bad weather, but that they shall be paid in accordance with the following principles:—

(b) The building trade shall permit a nine hours' day and a fifty hours' week in the summer, and a seven hours' day and a thirty-nine hours' week in winter in the case of building operatives engaged on housing.

(c) The guaranteed week shall consist of thirty-five hours in the summer, and twenty-six in the winter at full rates. The rest of the terms at half rates.

(d) The men must remain in attendance on the job

throughout the week and only leave work when rung off by the proper authority, and shall return to work when rung on by the same authority.

(e) Overtime within the limit of fifty hours per week in summer cannot be recognised. This is justified by the shortness of winter hours.

(f) Normal conditions of service to be applicable otherwise.

(ii) *Stoppages and Strikes.*

There shall be no stoppage or strikes in housing work, matters of dispute to be dealt with by Conciliation Boards in the ordinary way, and, as a last resort, by the Industrial Court. "Site stewards" to act through their union.

(iii) *Overtime.*

Members of unions should be allowed to work overtime on housing (when required) at the rates current in the district.

(iv) *Payment by Results.*

It is proposed that a system of payment by results which would permit the men to earn substantially higher wages than those yielded by ordinary rates should be adopted. The system must be subject to the following safeguards:—

(a) The men to be consulted in fixing the prices of a particular piece of work.

(b) No cutting of prices after they have been fixed.

(c) Each man to have a guarantee of a minimum wage for an hour's work of a certain output.

The Trade Unions are invited to make specific proposals for giving effect to a system of this kind.

It must be understood that these proposals stand as a whole, and that the offer of a guaranteed week is contingent on the acceptance of the other conditions.

The above proposals were discussed at a conference between the Cabinet Committee and the Resettlement Committee of the Joint Industrial Council of the Building Trades which took place at the Board of Trade offices last week.

The Resettlement Committee agreed that certain sections of the industry require immediate augmentation, and stated that they were alive to the need for an increased output and were prepared to do everything possible to attain that end, but they were not prepared to accept the methods of augmentation suggested by the Government, and they definitely rejected the proposals for a system of payment by results and for up-grading. They made counter-proposals for augmenting the supply of labour by the introduction of adult apprentices. They accepted in principle the Cabinet proposals in regard to overtime, subject to adequate safeguards. They made suggestions in regard to the distribution of contracts, and pledged the industry to support the Government in preventing unfair competition through the offer of special inducements designed to attract building labour to the detriment of housing schemes. The Resettlement Committee are considering proposals for indemnifying operatives against loss of time through stress of weather, and pending the adoption of those proposals they agreed that the Government might at once guarantee such indemnification on housing schemes.

**Stoppage of Building.**

Mr. Arthur Keen, Hon. Sec. R.I.B.A., replying in *The Architects' Journal* to a question raised by a correspondent as to what is being done by the R.I.B.A. with regard to the Government restrictions on building, says:—

"The Council have requested the Building Industries Consultative Board, which includes representatives of the

architects, the surveyors, the contractors, and the operatives, to deal with this matter. The Board have, as a first step, approached the County Council, to whom they are about to send a deputation.

"The Council have also appointed a Stoppage of Building Committee for the purpose of organising the meeting of protest desired by the General Body. This committee has approached the other societies and interests affected, and has invited them to take joint action with a view to a public protest. It has also initiated an enquiry into the actual working of the Government restrictions, so that it may be in the possession of established facts as a basis for its campaign.

"It is regretted that, so far, very few members have responded to the request, which has appeared in the R.I.B.A. JOURNAL and all the professional Press, to furnish the committee with facts and figures bearing on the subject. No action will be effective unless it is fully supported by evidence."

**New Housing Legislation.**

A Bill, entitled Ministry of Health (Miscellaneous Provisions) Bill, introduced by Dr. Addison, contains the following provisions relating to housing:—

Power is given to a local authority to hire compulsorily houses suitable for the housing of the working classes which have been withheld from occupation for a period of at least three months.

The period during which subsidies may be paid to persons constructing houses is extended for a further twelve months. No further charge on the Exchequer is involved.

The Appeal Tribunal, which hears appeals from orders prohibiting luxury building, is enabled to sit in more than one division, and thus to accelerate the hearing of appeals. The Minister of Health is given power to take action for the purpose of checking luxury building in certain cases which are not covered by the existing law.

There is a clause designed to facilitate the carrying out of housing schemes promoted by a local authority outside its own area. For this purpose, agreements can be made between the local authorities concerned for the execution of works incidental to the scheme and for the consequential financial adjustments.

The provisions of the Housing (Additional Powers) Act, 1919, are extended for the purpose of assisting county councils in financing the housing schemes of local authorities in their areas.

A general power is given to local authorities, with the approval of the Minister, to provide housing accommodation for their employees.

**Ministry of Health : New Chief of Housing Division.**

The Ministry of Health announces that Sir James Carmichael, K.B.E., Director-General of Housing has, for reasons of health, tendered his resignation, which the Minister has accepted, with great regret. The Housing Division of the Ministry has been reorganised and placed under the charge of Mr. E. R. Forber, C.B.E., an Assistant Secretary of the Ministry. Mr. Forber will be assisted by Mr. R. B. Cross, O.B.E., Assistant Secretary in charge of the Administrative Branches; Mr. Walker Smith, Director of Housing; and Mr. Stephen Easten, Director of Production.

The work in connection with Town Planning and Unhealthy Areas will be under a separate Assistant Secretary, Mr. I. G. Gibbon, C.B.E., who will

also continue temporarily to be in charge of the special branch which deals with Housing in London.

#### Cottage Building Construction : Reinforced Concrete.

The Ministry of Health have published the following decision, in connection with the National housing schemes, which has been arrived at by the Department's Standardisation and Construction Committee:—"Having in mind the failures which occur in buildings erected in reinforced concrete on account of materials being used which are not properly tested and because the necessary skilled supervision and labour are not available in sufficient quantities for the construction of cottages by this method, we are of opinion that it is undesirable to approve such a system, as, for this class of work, it possesses no advantages over other simpler and more suitable methods."

#### Stone for the Abbey.

An interesting discussion in *The Times* has resulted from a letter from Mr. Somers Clarke (formerly Surveyor to the Fabric of St. Paul's) offering a suggestion on the nature of the stone to be employed in carrying out the repairs at Westminster Abbey.

The Abbey Church (says Mr. Clarke) was built very largely of Reigate stone, at that time the most accessible building stone to London. It is a sandstone by no means of fine quality. But early in the reign of Henry III. what means of transport existed to bring a better material to the site? Good sandstone, it is well known, will stand the trials of a town atmosphere better than limestone. In the case of the Abbey Church more than 300 years ago there were bitter complaints in regard to the terrible destruction from which it was suffering from the depredations of "the coal smoke."

The most recent part of the Abbey Church is Henry VII.'s Chapel, in building which nothing was to be spared to attain perfection. The King directs in his will that "the chapel shall be finished in as good a manner as to a King's work apperteignith"; yet Sir Christopher Wren reports that "it is eaten up by our weather," whilst Dart, whose history of Westminster Abbey was published as far back as 1725, tells us that statues on the exterior were pulled down for fear they should fall on the heads of the passers-by.

With Wren comes in the reign of Portland stone. At that time the north front of the transept was a deplorable ruin. It was encased (and not a little changed in its form) with Portland stone.

Speaking generally, may we not call the period of the works referred to as belonging to the beginning of the eighteenth century? The works then executed were of a rather miserable nature. The flying buttresses, so important in maintaining the vaulted roofs, were, many of them, perished to a depth of three or more inches, and this over their whole surface; they were consequently thinner by some eight inches than they should be. These were skinned until a clean, new surface was arrived at; thus their strength and constructive value were seriously diminished. The clerestory walls were similarly treated.

As for the north transept before referred to, the vertical surfaces of this were "flagged," as Mr. Lethaby has related. Many a time during the progress of the recent reconstruction of this façade I have looked down into great chasms five or six feet deep between the crumbling surfaces of the ancient structure and the miserable "flagging" with which it had been disguised. There were severe critics of Mr. Pearson's drastic "restorations" of this façade, but the new work was, at any rate, as sound and solid as possible.

In this work Chilmark stone was, I think, made use of, and some of it is already perishing. It is a limestone.

In the year 1864 I entered Sir (Mr.) Gilbert Scott's office as a pupil. He was at that time architect to the Dean and Chapter of Westminster, and never ceased to encourage his pupils to study at the Abbey Church. From that date I have seen all the works going on at the fabric. I can say, with really intimate knowledge, that one was forced to wonder how such perishing masonry maintained its position.

We now come to the question of the use of Portland stone. This material at the Abbey Church has perished and is now perishing. It is stated that all works of repair are to be executed in Portland stone. May I ask what are its particular merits? Let us inquire how it has justified itself in times past.

We have in St. Paul's Cathedral a very great structure, the exterior entirely of Portland stone. Compared with the Abbey Church, we may almost call St. Paul's a modern building. It was begun in 1675. In 1697 the eastern limb was completed and used. We learn that the walls west of this were, at that time, also carried up to a great height. Very large surfaces were therefore exposed to the weather and London filth. From 1697 to 1920 is 223 years. The masonry of the lantern surmounting the dome was finished in 1710. From that date to this is but 210 years. What a short period this is in the age of a great monument! What is the condition in which we now find this masonry to be? It has perished with great uniformity over its whole surface to a depth of about half an inch. The surfaces of the stonework lower down have perished, but to a slightly lesser degree; wherever we observe the surfaces to be clean and white there the degradation is going on.

Portland stone is full of little fossils. The sulphurous ingredients of the London air do not attack these fossils. By the height which they now stand up above the existing surfaces it is easy to tell what the degradation has been. It is to be feared that the public is under the impression that when it sees Portland stone "nice and white" its admirable qualities are displayed, when in fact it is the gloomy black surfaces that are well preserved.

The evil rests with the public's wasteful indifference and misuse in the burning of coal. . . . Must all we now hope to do in repair begin immediately to perish? Why must we make use of limestone? It is quite well known that sandstones of suitable quality are more resistant than limestones. Let us compare like with like. In the North of England and South of Scotland are towns more horribly smothered in a perpetual night than even London. Let us take Glasgow as an example. Yet I think it will be found that masonry in that city is not so quickly disintegrated as in London. How is the case in Liverpool or Manchester? Is not sandstone made use of?

May the suggestion be made that a small commission of three or four competent men be assembled who shall be instructed to travel around, to see for themselves what may be learnt on this subject, before it is too late?

Professor Lethaby, in *The Times* of the 16th inst., refers to the above letter and says: "We have in the western towers of the Abbey church experiments in the use of Portland stone actually built and nearly 200 years old? Apart from the injury caused by the mistaken use of iron in these structures the stone is generally very well preserved. Portland stone in London decays very slowly, the surface falling away in powder, while below it the stone remains sound. The other stones which have been used seem, on the contrary, to rot to a considerable depth."

"I write now to call attention to the general problem of stone preservation in our climate, and especially in large cities. All modern stone buildings should,

I believe, be coated over the surface with a preservative wash as a regular part of building procedure. The custom has been to "clean off the work" at the end, leaving all the pores of the stone open for the agents of decay to begin their action at once, especially at the joints of the masonry, which are often slightly recessed, so that moisture will lodge there. The jointing should be flush and firm, and the whole surface of the stone-work should be covered with a wash of lime tinted to the colour of the stone, or with some application which will stop the absorption of moisture. Only last week a liquid wash was brought to my notice which is practically colourless and seems at first sight to be remarkably successful. I find that people think they would dislike limewashes as being in some way 'improper,' but the use of lime in this way was traditional in the Middle Ages, and it was not at all introduced by churchwardens. For myself, I have come to dislike raw and naked new stonework, as I cannot forget what is happening to it unrelentingly."

Mr. Cecil H. Desch (Sheffield University) in *The Times* of the 19th inst. says: "All limestone and such sandstones as have a cementing material containing lime between the grains are attacked by the acid gases which are present in the air of large towns, and this chemical action destroys the stone by dissolving out certain constituents and converting others into friable bulky salts which have little cohesion. It is quite possible to preserve the surface by suitable chemical treatment, and where decay has already set in the remaining porous surface, after removal of dirt and any loosely adherent rotted layer, may be preserved from further action.

"A lime-wash, as mentioned by Mr. Lethaby, closes the pores and checks the absorption of moisture, but it offers no chemical resistance to acid fumes and only delays the onset of decay. Baryta, which forms an insoluble coating, was used on several public buildings under the Office of Works, but it is troublesome to apply on account of its highly corrosive and poisonous properties, and has the further disadvantage of producing an unpleasant white-washed surface. Water glass only affords a slight degree of protection. The best preserving agents are the fluosilicates of certain metals, such as magnesium. These are colourless, soluble, and non-poisonous salts. When a solution of magnesium fluosilicate, for example, is brushed over a porous surface of limestone, a reaction takes place, and three insoluble products are formed—namely, silica and the fluorides of calcium and magnesium. The porosity may be reduced to any desired extent (it is not advisable to render the stone entirely impervious to moisture), and the new surface is quite unaffected by acids. The fluosilicates have been very largely employed on the Continent under the trade name of "Fluates," both for the protection of new and the preservation of old buildings, but they are still little known in this country, although they have been applied with success to several buildings. It is necessary for a chemist to make experiments in each case to

determine the best concentration and mode of application of the protective salt to a given stone. Treatment with such salts has the great advantage of not altering in any way the colour or appearance of the stone to which they are applied. The raw materials for the manufacture of the salts are found abundantly in this country."

Mr. Alan E. Munby [F.], Chairman of the Science Standing Committee, in *The Times* of the 23rd inst., draws attention to weathering tests on building stones which are being carried out by the Geological Survey authorities. Some ten years ago (he says), as the result of a Paper on the Application of Science to Materials, the Survey authorities approached the R.I.B.A., and a little programme upon the weathering of stones was drawn up by the Science Committee and the geologists. A number of specimens of common building stones placed in suitable frames with regard to aspect have now been exposed on the roof of a building in the heart of London for nearly a decade, and from time to time these specimens have been examined and the deposits formed upon them have been assessed and tested, non-corrodible metal plugs being used to preserve the planes of the original faces. At the close of this year it is hoped to make a final report.

Mr. Munby goes on to say that the somewhat divergent opinions expressed seem to show very forcibly how much the problems of building demand the attention and collaboration of men of science. Many millions might be saved annually by the expenditure of a few thousands of pounds on research. Many of the problems requiring solution were submitted in some detail to the Industrial Research Department by the Science Committee of the R.I.B.A. immediately after this Department was formed. As regards the question of stones, looking at the problem generally the use of preservatives must surely imply the initial employment of material in some measure unsuited to its environment, and in attacking the whole matter we should probe the roots and not begin by treating symptoms, however necessary in specific instances. Probably the physical characters of stone are really more important than chemical composition. For example, Ketton and Bath stone are both oolites, with very similar chemical composition but different physical structures, and the difference in the weathering power of these stones in London is well known.

Mr. J. Allen Howe, Curator of the Museum of Practical Geology, Jermyn Street, in *The Times* of the 23rd asks why we build with stone—is it for the sake of permanence or for effect, or for both?

"As regards permanence," says Mr. Howe, "the fact must be faced that, though we may wish to build for remote posterity, in this country, with the architectural features we have adopted, we cannot do so. Repairs will be needed in the next generation whenever construction may be undertaken. Our duty with national buildings is to build them as well as we can for the present, and see that funds are provided for their proper maintenance in the near future. If a

long view is taken, it must be realised that stone has to be renewed just as certainly as a coat of paint. It is only a question of degree. When, in the course of time, we secure in our towns an atmosphere less acrid and destructive than that we now suffer, the life of the stones will be prolonged, but not indefinitely; for in the forms that are given to our buildings and the ornaments with which they are embellished we invite local decay.

"In choosing stone as a building material we are actuated by tradition, by sentiment, and by our æsthetic sense. As a matter of fact, we could find other material quite as permanent if this quality were to be the sole criterion. In the choice of a particular stone we are influenced by its qualities, including its appearance, and by its cost; and as often as not cost has the last word.

"Now, Mr. Somers Clarke suggests the employment of sandstone on the ground of its greater durability. We have in this country an abundance of excellent sandstones, but, I would ask, can it be shown that any sandstone used in London has behaved uniformly better than Portland stone, especially in those critical portions of the building where moisture exerts its greatest effect? And, further, are we prepared to substitute for the pleasing greys and whites of Portland stone the rather dingy uniformity that in existing circumstances is the final aspect acquired by sandstones in most towns? If a limestone is to be employed, there can be no question as to the suitability of Portland stone, because we know by experience exactly how it will behave; it is the most foolproof of all our softer limestones, and it will be in keeping with its surroundings. What Mr. Clarke says about its 'degradation' is absolutely true, and is in itself the best testimonial that could be given to any limestone.

"We are just now shocked at being reminded of the Abbey's state of decay, so we provide funds that will enable its guardians to replace the decayed stone by new stone that will suffer in the same way as the old. If we dipped a little deeper into our pockets, funds might be raised that would allow of the employment of a stone of much greater durability and not inharmonious in appearance—for example, the granite of Carnsew or Delank. My point is that if greater durability is honestly desired it can be attained by paying the cost.

"As for the 'liquid washes,' some are excellent, but to be really effective their application must be repeated periodically on the most inaccessible parts of the structure; this again means money. Others, also, are excellent in their way, but their use so alters the look of the stone that we might as well employ painted iron from the beginning."

#### The Preservation of Ancient Monuments.

Sir Alfred Mond, First Commissioner of Works, has appointed an Advisory Committee consisting of Lord Beauchamp (Chairman), Lord Ferrers, Sir Martin Conway, M.P., Lieutenant-Colonel the Hon. C. James,

M.P., Bishop Browne, Sir Hercules Read, Sir Lionel Earle, and Mr. C. R. Peers, F.S.A. (Chief Inspector of Ancient Monuments), with the following terms of reference:—(1) To advise on the question of amending and strengthening the existing Ancient Monuments Act. (2) To consider whether the powers conferred by Parliament should be widened, so as to include advisory powers over ecclesiastical and secular buildings which are still in occupation.

In announcing the above appointment one of the building papers makes the comment, "No architect included!" But Earl Ferrers, it is of interest to recall, is a trained architect, having served his articles with Mr. Basil Champneys and passed through the A.A. Fourth Year Course. As Walter Knight Shirley, before coming into the title, he practised at 12 Buckingham Street, Strand, and from 1911 to 1914 was a Licentiate of the Institute. Among his works are Hannington Hall, Atford; Holmwood Church, Surrey; St. John's Hospital Chapel, Winchester; the tower of Ettington Church, Warwickshire; 35, Victoria Road and 1, Albert Place, Kensington; Thorpe Lodge, Campden Hill; Newland House, Eynsham; Linton Schools, Oxford.

The Bishop of Rochester has appointed a small committee of experts to give advice to the clergy on structural and artistic questions relating to parish churches. "The urgency of the matter," he says, "lies in this, that the best safeguard against any attempt by the State to gain control over cathedrals and ancient churches will be the manifestation on the part of the Church of England that the care of ancient monuments is in expert hands of the Church's own choosing."

#### St. Sophia, Constantinople

Mr. Sydney Toy gives the following account in *The Times* of the present condition of St. Sophia, Constantinople:—

Desirous of studying the architecture of St. Sophia at Constantinople, and of ascertaining its present condition, I obtained the necessary permission from the Turkish authorities and spent some time during April and May of this year in subjecting that glorious building to as thorough an examination as the lack of scaffolding and authority to remove plaster would permit.

While being profoundly impressed with the great strength of some parts of this church, I am also struck by the extremely dangerous condition of others. The main body of the building is wonderfully well preserved, its principal and subsidiary semi-domes are in good condition, and, although the infilling walls below the great north and south arches are considerably buckled and deflected, and the great arches themselves, particularly that on the west, much distorted, these defects are not immediately menacing. The pavement of the gynæceum, both on the north and south, has sunk considerably in the centre and also near the walls, but here again, having regard to the age and character of the building, and since the vaults of the aisles and gynæceum are in relatively good condition, this in itself is not disquieting. The four great piers supporting the dome, however, are considerably cracked and require immediate attention.

The dome of St. Sophia, considering its great size and the character of its supports, manifests a structural perfection which is probably unsurpassed in any other building. Nothing but the application of such consummate constructive principles has preserved it from failure under the stresses to which it has been subjected and the successive shocks it has sustained. As it is, the dome is distorted and deflected in all directions, and, although this distortion is not immediately alarming throughout its surface, it certainly is so on the north-east. The ponderous weight of the 23 great iron chandeliers depending from the dome cannot but have, in its present state, a sinister influence on its stability.

Apart from the main buttresses, the four pendentives are reinforced by heavy rectangular structures which are quite distinct from the adjoining brickwork and contain stairways. They begin at the level of the haunches of the pendentives, are stopped at the platform on which the dome stands, but were designed to rise considerably above that level. These structures have not been sufficiently strong to resist the thrusts exercised upon them by the dome and pendentives, and at the three corners from which the plaster coating has been removed long fissures in the brickwork are exposed, that on the north-east being a gap varying from 7 inches to 10 inches in width.

It is at this north-east point that the immediate danger to the church lies. The pendentive behind has given way, and a portion of it has been thrust back to the extent of about 2 feet, while the haunch of the dome immediately above has become deflected to an alarming extent, the incrustation having fallen from the extreme projection by way of warning. Moisture also has searched its way through the pendentive. Some attempt has been made to plug the great fissure with brick and stone, but it is obvious that unless reparation of a drastic character is effected at this corner at once the stability of the structure cannot be guaranteed, for, failing here, as it certainly must do at no distant date, the equilibrium would be upset and the dome unquestionably fall.

If this great building, of incomparable beauty and unique historical associations, is to be preserved to posterity, then it is most desirable that some effort be made to induce the proper authorities to undertake its effective repair at once.

#### Intellectual Intercourse between French, British and American Students.

The London Branch of the "Office National des Universités et Ecoles Françaises," which was founded in the summer of 1919 in co-operation with the British and American University organisations of the same type, has, like the head office already existing in Paris, the official recognition and active support of the French Ministry of Public Instruction.

It aims at securing closer intercourse between French, British and American students and teachers, while diffusing a wider knowledge of French intellectual culture of every kind. For this purpose premises have been selected in the heart of London, where a library has been set up for information concerning the Universities and the principal State Schools of France, together with a lecture room, where eminent French scholars visiting London may give lectures, and where French students and teachers may meet their Anglo-

Saxon colleagues. There is also a Secretariat, the duties of which are to supply every information regarding the various Universities, Technical Schools, Commercial and Artistic Establishments of France, in order that English-speaking students and the teachers in charge of their studies may be directed to those towns and establishments that will prove most suitable for the furtherance of their intellectual pursuits.

On the other hand, this office is to remain in close contact with British Universities, in order to direct to the best advantage those students who come over to England for their studies.

This French office has found it beneficial for its action in both these directions to come to an agreement with the offices recently set up in London by the Universities' Bureau of the British Empire and the American University Union in Europe. These three bodies have their joint headquarters in a building belonging to the Universities' Bureau of the British Empire, and situated at 50, Russell Square, W.C.1. [Tel., Museum 5167.] Under this arrangement the lecture room and library are shared by the three organisations so as to increase the opportunities for intercourse between the students and teachers of the three allied associated nations.

The general management of the Office National (finance, &c.) is in the hands of a committee composed of French citizens long established in London, as follows:—

*Two representatives of the teaching of Literature.*—Prof. G. Rudley, Marshal Foch Professor of French Literature at the University of Oxford, President of the Society of French Teachers in England; M. E. Audra, Director of the French Institute of the United Kingdom.

*Two representatives of the Engineering Profession.*—MM. T. J. Gueritte and Sloop, Ingénieurs des Arts et Manufactures.

*Two representatives of the Legal Profession.*—MM. R. Monsarrat and A. Pontremoli, Avocats.

*Two representatives of the Fine Arts.*—M. Jean-Aubry, Member of the Advisory Committee on Artistic Expansion (French Ministry of the Fine Arts), and M. Fernand Billerey, Architect to the French Embassy.

*Two representatives of the Commercial Profession.*—MM. E. Duche and M. Sumet.

*Two representatives of the Press.*—M. Robert L. Cru, London Correspondent of the *Temps*, and M. Bernard Laporte, London Correspondent of the *Matin*.

Professor G. Rudler has been elected President by the Committee.

The London Branch of the "Office National des Universités et Ecoles Françaises" has already done a great deal of useful work by helping British students from this country and the Dominions to go to France, and assisting French students on their arrival in this country, and also in the exchange of teachers and Professors in Universities. Beside the subsidy which it receives from the French Ministry of Public Instruc-

tion, the London Branch of the "Office National" has hitherto derived the main part of its resources from private contributions given by public-spirited members of the French Colony in London.

M. Fernand Billerey, one of the Beaux-Arts representatives on the Committee of the "Office National," writes that the "Direction des Beaux-Arts" in Paris would welcome and assist any intercourse in the teaching of architecture between England and France—and the "Office National" would be pleased to be considered as the "Liaison Office," to render any assistance that may be suggested—in making arrangements, for instance, for students' visits to France with or without reciprocity—exchange of students and of masters, exhibitions of drawings—perhaps even competitions between British and French ateliers.

#### The Anglo-Belgian Union.

The aim of the Anglo-Belgian Union is to further the knowledge of Belgian life in this country through a series of lectures, either in English or in French, by distinguished men and women belonging to both countries. Similar work is being done by the Union in Belgium to develop interest and sympathy for British questions. The Union will supply Societies with a lecture, or course of lectures, on any Belgian or Anglo-Belgian subject that may interest them. King George and King Albert are Patrons of the Union; the President is Count de Roodenbeke; Vice-President, Lord Burnham; Hon. Secs., Vicomte Davignon and Mr. Algernon Maudslay; Hon. Treasurer in England, Sir Cecil Hertslet. During the two years of the Union's existence 175 lectures have been given, among the lecturers being M. Emile Cammaerts, Sir Cecil Hertslet (late H.M. Consul-General for Belgium), Dr. Stewart (Praelector in French Studies, Trinity College, Cambridge), M. Paul Lambotte (Directeur des Beaux-Arts de Belgique), M. Jules Dechamps (University of London), M. Gaston de Leval (Counsellor to the British Legation, Brussels), Mr. Edwin Fagg (Tate Gallery), Mr. Marion H. Spielmann, F.S.A. [Hon. A.], Mr. Francis J. Whitgreave, Mr. Robert Bridges and Sir Henry Newbolt have also promised their collaboration. Catalogues of lectures may be obtained from the Secretary, Educational Sub-Committee, Anglo-Belgian Union, 35 Albemarle Street, W.

#### University Readership in Architecture.

The Senate of the University of London have conferred the title of "Reader in Architecture" upon Mr. Stratton, F.S.A. [F.]. For some years Mr. Stratton has held the post of Lecturer in the School of Architecture at University College, and his new appointment is tenable at the same college. Mr. Stratton's literary work is well known. His large and comprehensive work on *The English Interior*, which traverses the styles of interior decoration in English homes from Tudor times to the nineteenth century, was recently issued through Messrs. B. T. Batsford. It is some years since he published an interesting monograph on Sir Christopher Wren. Later he completed the monumental work commenced by the late Thomas Garner on *Tudor Architecture in England*, and he edited the latest edition of Anderson's *Architecture of the Renaissance in Italy*.

#### Architectural Atelier at London University.

The *London University Gazette* of the 4th inst. states that at the meeting of the Senate of the University

held on 21st July it was resolved to establish, in connection with the Bartlett School of Architecture at University College, an Atelier for the study of Advanced Architectural Design, and that it will be under the direction of Professor A. E. Richardson [F.].

#### Reopening of the New Galleries at the British Museum.

The King Edward VII. Galleries at the British Museum, which have been closed since 1916 owing to the war, have now been reopened to the public. A selection of the works of Old Masters has been made from the main collection and placed in the Galleries, and in addition specimens of modern art, many of which are publicly shown for the first time. Drawings depicting incidents of the war are also exhibited, and there is a selection of engravings, chiefly English (1780-1820), and some Oriental pictures and drawings, including works from the Stein Collection not previously exhibited. The second gallery contains specimens of mediæval glass and china.

#### A Battlefield Pantheon.

It is announced in *The Times* that arrangements are in progress for the erection at Notre Dame de Lorette, in Artois, of a great monument to the Allied dead. According to the plans designed by M. Cordonnier, a member of the Institut de France, a domed basilica, resembling the Pantheon in outward appearance, will have attached to it two wings terminated by small corner towers. In these wings will lie the remains of Allied dead. Approaching by a fine avenue girded by verdant lawns, one will perceive, overtopping the dome, a graceful belfry tower. At the summit of this there will be "a lantern of the dead," the rays of which will be seen miles around from Douai and Lille, no less than from Hazebrouck or Cassel.

#### Union Internationale des Villes: Fifteen-day Congress and Excursions.

The Union Internationale des Villes, whose seat is at Brussels, is holding its Fifteen-Day International Congress at Brussels, from the 5th to the 20th September. A special section is devoted to Town Planning and Municipalism, the meetings to take place from the 13th to the 20th. After the Congress a six-day excursion (21st-26th September) will be made to Holland, visits being paid to The Hague, Rotterdam, Amsterdam, Heerlen (mining district), returning by the mining district of Limbourg, (Belgium). This excursion promises to be of extreme interest, for it is claimed that nowhere on the Continent of Europe can be seen such effective architectural schemes as those which have been carried out in Holland in recent years. The cost of the excursion is expected to amount to 100 fr. per day (rate of exchange = 4 fr. to the florin), the Dutch Organising Committee arranging for hotels, meals, and carriages. A series of six lectures on "Some Aspects of Town Planning" will be delivered at the Congress by Professor Patrick Abercrombie [F.]. During the Congress visits will be paid to various Belgian towns—Ypres, Ostend, Bruges, Antwerp, Liège, Charleroi, &c., &c. The subscription to the Congress is 25 fr., which entitles members to attend all lectures, meetings, and excursions (travelling and refreshment expenses to be defrayed by the participant). Members intending to join in the excursion to Holland must notify the Secretariat at least a fortnight beforehand. All particulars will be furnished on application to the Director, M. Emile Vinck, 3 bis Rue de la Régence, Brussels (telephone, B. 2687).

## OBITUARY.

Josiah Conder [F.].

Josiah Conder (of Tokyo, Japan), who died on the 21st June, in his 68th year, was elected an Associate of the Institute in 1878, and Fellow in 1884. In 1876 he was awarded the Soam Medallion for a Design of a Country House. Mr. Conder went to Japan in 1876, and the following particulars of his career are culled from the *Japan Gazette* and the *Japan Times and Mail*.

Dr. Josiah Conder was one of the best known and worthy representatives of the architectural profession in Japan. He was educated at Bedford, England, at the Commercial School there (now the Modern School). He later studied architecture at the South Kensington Art Schools and at the Slade Life Classes of the University College, London. After finishing the necessary courses of study, he was attached to the late Professor T. Roger Smith, F.R.I.B.A., in 1868. He shortly after became architectural assistant to the late William Burges and a student of the Royal Institute of British Architects.

Dr. Conder entered the Imperial Japanese Government's service in January 1876 as Professor of Architecture in the Engineering College, and Architect to the Public Works Department, becoming the first architectural instructor of those who are now the leading architects of Japan. He designed, and with their assistance carried out, several important public buildings, including two small palaces for Imperial Princes and the first buildings of the present Imperial University.

In 1881 he was appointed Consulting Architect to the Imperial Palace Building Bureau to investigate the matter of foundations and to design a contemplated Imperial Audience Hall and block of offices for the Imperial Household Department, the latter building being carried out.

In 1884 he was attached to the Daiyo Kenan office to investigate matters connected with the building of new public offices on the Hibiya Parade Ground, and after the formation of the Rinzi Kenchiku Kioku served that office and carried out the construction of the new Ministry of Marine, assisting generally upon the construction of other buildings designed abroad. On the Kenchiku Kioku being absorbed by the Naimusho, he joined that Department, with which he remained up to the time of his death; also holding a life pension from the Imperial Government, and the post of Honorary Adviser to the Naimusho.

In April 1886, in addition to his other duties, he was appointed Lecturer in Architecture to the Imperial University, a post which he held, with the exception of a very short period, until the end of 1888.

In 1884 he had conferred upon him the Fourth-class Order of the Rising Sun, and in 1894 received the Third-class Order of the Sacred Treasure and official rank of Honorary Chokunin.

Dr. Conder served on the jury on the selection of Japanese art exhibits for the first American Exhibition held in Chicago, and, together with Mr. Iono Tatsuzo, represented Japanese architects at the World's Fair in Chicago.

Dr. Conder was the first Honorary President of the Society of Japanese Architects, and has been elected as Honorary Member of the Engineering Society of Japan. He also held the title of Emeritus Professor of Architecture from the Tokyo Imperial University.

Among the buildings constructed by Dr. Conder are:

Uyeno Natural Museum; Tokyo University (first blocks of buildings for the Law and Literature Colleges); Palaces of Imperial Princes Arisugawa and Kitashirakawa; Navy Department Office and Residence of the Naval Minister; Official Residences of the Home Minister and Finance Minister; the German Embassy; Austria-Hungarian Embassy; Italian Embassy; private residences of Marquis Matsukata, Baron Iwasaki, Baron Kato, K. Sawada, T. Akaboshi, I. Imamura; the Tokyo Club and the Mitsui villa.

In spite of the heavy demands on his time, caused by the multiplicity of private and public duties, Dr. Conder still found opportunities to write a few books on Japan, and among the best known of these are: *The Floral Art of Japan*; *Landscape Gardening in Japan*; *Notes on Japanese Architecture*; and *Paintings and Studies by Kwanabe Kyosei*.

In 1880, four years after his arrival in Japan, he married Miss Kumeko Mayeba, who died on 10th June 1920. One child, a daughter named Helen Aiko, was born to Dr. and Mrs. Conder. Miss Conder married Commander L. Grut (Swedish Navy, retired) in 1906.

Dr. Conder had three grand-daughters and three grandsons. The boys are at school in Sweden, while the girls were with Dr. Conder in Tokyo.

Kwanabe Kyosei, the well-known Japanese classic artist, found a great patron in Dr. Conder. The latter soon saw the great possibilities latent in the young Japanese artist, and in every possible way aided to develop that talent. In fact, Kyosei was practically unknown until Dr. Conder brought him into the limelight, and after that his rise was rapid. Kyosei had always a very warm sense of gratitude toward Dr. Conder, and one of his favourite sayings was: "An artist should be international, and I am a bit international, thanks to an Englishman who put me on the road to fame."

It is stated that the official announcement of death was delayed because of the wish of the Imperial Government to confer on Dr. Conder posthumous honours because of his long and splendid service to the Government.

Mr. JOHN JOHNSON, of 9, Queen Victoria Street, E.C., whose death is announced, was elected an Associate of the Institute in 1881. He had an extensive practice, his works including several Nonconformist places of worship, schools, and public buildings, most of them won in open competition. Mr. Johnson, who was a rapid sketcher and excellent draughtsman, did some of the architectural drawings for the books of the late Edmund Sharpe. He was elected a member of the Architectural Association in 1863, and was the only member who had attended all the annual A.A. excursions which were held up to the outbreak of the war.

The deaths are also announced of the following:—

RICHARDSON, JAMES, *Licentiate*, elected 1911. Died two years ago.

BLACKBOURN, HENRY, *Associate*, elected 1893.

BURKE, EDMUND, *Licentiate*, elected 1911.

EATON, WILLIAM, *Associate*, elected 1890.

MARTIN, F. W., *Licentiate*, elected 1911. Died July, 1917.

PIERCE, ARTHUR PATRICK HECTOR, *Associate*, elected 1907.

## PROCEEDINGS OF THE COUNCIL.

19th July 1920.

**APPOINTMENT OF BOARDS AND COMMITTEES.**—The Council approved the Report of the Selection and General Purposes Committee, and appointed the Committees of Council, the Board of Architectural Education, the special Boards and Committees, and the additional Members of the four Standing Committees for the Session 1920-21.

**CIVIC SURVEY EXHIBITION.**—The Council appointed a Joint Committee for the purpose of organising an exhibition of Civic Survey drawings.

**THE STANDING COMMITTEE ON WATER REGULATIONS.**—Mr. H. Austen Hall and Mr. H. D. Searles-Wood were reappointed to represent the R.I.B.A. on the Standing Committee on Water Regulations.

**LEGISLATION.**—It was decided to take steps to protect the interests of architects and surveyors in the Government Service under the Government of Ireland Bill (1920), and to safeguard the rights of the public under the Air Navigation Bill.

## COMPETITIONS.

**Hackney War Memorial.  
Early and Wakefield War Memorial.**

Members and Licentiates of the Royal Institute of British Architects must not take part in the above Competitions because the conditions are not in accordance with the published Regulations of the Royal Institute for Architectural Competitions.

**Liverpool Secondary Schools.**

As a result of correspondence between the Competitions Committee of the R.I.B.A. and the promoters, the conditions of this Competition are now in order, and there is no objection to Members and Licentiates taking part.

**New Club Premises, Barcelona.**

The Competitions Committee desire to call the attention of Members and Licentiates to the fact that the conditions of the above Competition are unsatisfactory. The Committee are in negotiation with the promoters in the hope of securing an amendment. In the meantime Members and Licentiates are advised to take no part in the Competition.

IAN MACALISTER, Secretary.

## Architectural Appointment : Straits Settlements.

An assistant is required as soon as possible in the Architect's Office of the Public Works Department, Singapore, Straits Settlements. The salary is 500 dollars per month, rising by annual increments of 25 dollars per month to 600 dollars per month, with prospect of further advancement to 800 dollars per month. (The sterling value of the dollar is at present

fixed by the Government at 2s. 4d.). A temporary war bonus of 10 per cent. is at present payable. If quarters are provided rent will be charged, but no guarantee can be given that quarters will be available. Free passages out and home again on the satisfactory termination of the engagement. The period of engagement is three years, with prospect of a permanency. The selected candidate will be required to pass a strict medical examination, and be vaccinated if necessary. Address, The Secretary, R.I.B.A., 9, Conduit Street, W.

## CIRCULAR LETTER TO LICENTIATES.

**General Meeting of Licentiates R.I.B.A.**

9 Conduit Street, W.  
August 1920.

DEAR SIR,—

I am directed to inform you that at the conclusion of the meeting on Wednesday, 18th May last, called by the R.I.B.A. for the purpose of electing representatives of the Licentiates on the Unification Committee, a further meeting was held at which it was decided to form a permanent Committee in order that the seven representatives elected to serve on the Unification Committee might have the advantage of conferring with their fellow Licentiates.

The future status of the architect depends upon the action taken now for the welfare of the architectural profession as a whole. It devolves upon the Licentiates as a class to form a strong organisation, so that the interests of the architectural community at large may receive careful consideration, in deciding the policy regarding unification and registration. It has been decided to hold a General Meeting of Licentiates at the R.I.B.A. on 17th September 1920 to discuss the whole question and to take initial steps for forming the Licentiates into a living body. All Licentiates, therefore, are called upon to make a special effort to attend this meeting, since the future of the architectural profession is the work in hand.

SAMUEL G. SHORT, *Licentiate*.

## Licentiates and the Fellowship.

The attention of Licentiates is called to the fact that, under the provisions of the Charter and By-laws, the last date on which a Licentiate can be nominated for the Fellowship is the 31st December 1920 (see Suppl. Charter, Clause 2, and By-law 7). The Examination qualifying for candidature takes place in November, and applications for admission must be sent in to the Secretary not later than *Saturday, 16th October*. Particulars of the Examination may be obtained upon application to the Secretary.

**ASSISTANT.**—A good, qualified assistant, aged from 27 to 30, preferably single, is wanted to supervise architectural work at Feltham. Must be a man with good taste, and tactful. Address 10x 240, Secretary R.I.B.A., 9 Conduit Street.

